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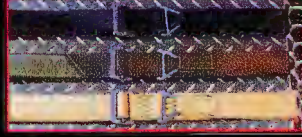
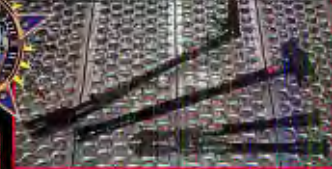
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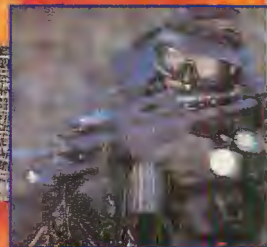
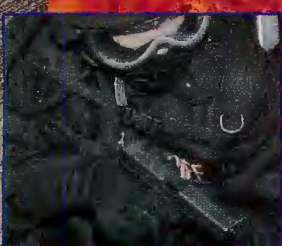
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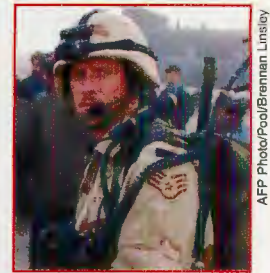
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FEBRUARY 2002 ✕ VOL. 27 NO. 2



AFP Photo/Pool/Brennan Linsley

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A United States Air Force Special Operations soldier stands guard near a U.S. Army Special Forces Chinook helicopter in Kwaja Bahuddine, north Afghanistan. See story on page 20.

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David Stone and M. Brook



Courtesy Revolution Studios/Columbia Pictures/Sydney Baldwin

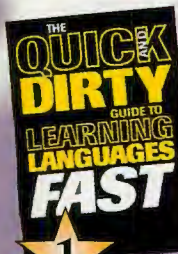
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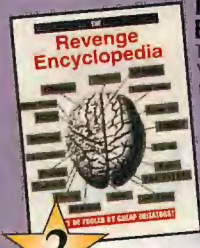


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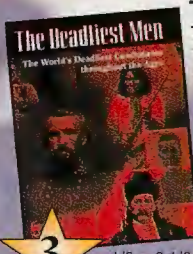
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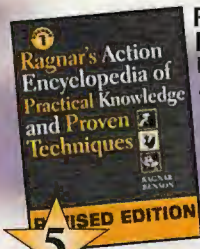
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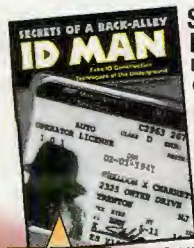
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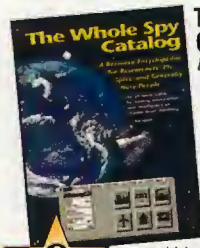
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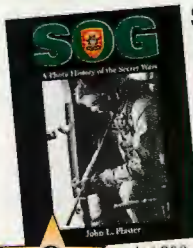
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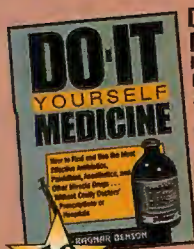
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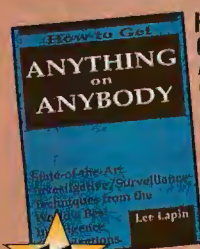
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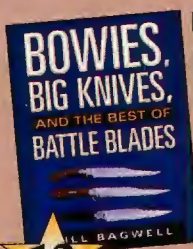
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Command Guidance

BY COL. ALEX MCCOLL (USAR, RET.)

We Owe Them The Best

As of 10 September this year, no one could have predicted with any certainty that we were about to be committed to a serious medium-sized war in Afghanistan of all places. This confirms the point that *SOF* has been making all along: The specific time, place and circumstances of the next time our armed forces will be committed to battle cannot be predicted, but it is an absolute certainty that sometime in the next 10 years, or 10 days, there will be another war involving the American military. This is simply a fact.

Nor can the scope and character of the commitment be foreseen: The present operation in Afghanistan, consisting of air, logistics and special operations support for the Northern Alliance and the other anti-Taliban forces, is radically different from prior operations in Panama, Grenada and Vietnam.

The requirement then, is for large, very well equipped, trained and led, land, sea and air forces capable of anything from decorously showing the flag to thermonuclear war anywhere in the world. This cannot be done on the cheap; you cannot improvise effective military forces between the Tuesday and Thursday of the same week. As we have seen, in today's world, we will not have the long lead times that our allies bought for us in World Wars I and II.

One reason why the South Koreans, the Israelis and, especially before the end of the Cold War, the West Germans could look so good is that each of them had only to prepare for a one-scenario war against a single, clearly defined adversary in a limited and specific geographical area. We do not have this luxury. The U.S. Armed Forces and, to a slightly lesser degree, those of France and

Great Britain, have to be prepared to go anywhere and do anything.

We had hoped that these obvious truths had been brought home by the Gulf War 10 years ago. Unfortunately, the view prevailed that, since the Cold War was over, radical cuts in the fighting force could be made and that the resources thereby released, could be applied to more cost-effective forms of vote buying. Never mind that, in the Gulf War, our sea lift, air lift and reserve component resources were strained to the limit; they have been radically cut since then.

Would larger and better supported conventional and special operations forces have prevented the disasters of 11 September? Probably not. But the next time we have to go to war may be an entirely different place, against a different kind of adversary, and with different local ground rules.

Theodore Roosevelt, among others, said, "In time of peace, prepare for war." Napoleon said, "You can do everything with bayonets but sit on them." There is an old British Navy saying, "Oderint dum metuant," Latin for "Let them hate, so long as they also fear." We will never be rid of Third-World demagogues promoting envy and self pity among the Third-World poor with "hate America" as a major part of their dismal message. Some of them we can ignore or buy off; others we shall have to sort out the hard way. The least we can do for the brave and loyal men and women in the green and blue suits who will have to do the sorting out, is to ensure that there are enough of them, with the best possible leadership, training and equipment. We owe them, ourselves, our descendents and the rest of the world no less. ☒

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Bulletin Board

Afghanistan Maps

Although *SOF* has spent a lot of time on the ground in Afghanistan, a good segment of the population would have a hard time locating Afghanistan on a map of Asia — let alone locating the neighboring countries, cities and areas in today's headlines. Fortunately, very good map collections are immediately available on-line.

An excellent collection of maps is available from the Afghan Info Center's Afghan-Info.com site, that includes geographic information GIS maps, administrative divisions, ethnographic maps and similar, plus timely regional maps, fighting area maps, refugee maps, and up to date maps showing air strikes and military activity. Access them at <http://www.afghan-info.com/Mapmenu.html>.

The library at the University of Texas at Austin holds the Perry-Castaneda Map Collection, including an outstanding collection of country maps, city and regional maps, many of which are suitable for navigational use. The collection also offers maps of ethnolinguistic groups, maps of land use and economic activity, of population/topography/transport nets, and historical maps that cover all areas of the country for the past couple centuries. Of particular interest is a collection of day-by-day battle maps of the current military activity. Access this collection at <http://dev.lib.utexas.edu/maps/afghanistan.html>.

It's Winter, And The Heat Is On

Tomahawks, JDAMS and similar munitions can target whatever cave a Taliban, al-Qaida or similar rodent is using for shelter. That's the easy part. Selecting which cave is the hard part, and this is where America's technological advantage with exotic thermal-imaging gear may come to the fore. Under the right conditions, heat-sensing technologies are more effective in cold climates, and the bitter Afghanistan winters may well provide the setting, especially if the enemy perceives an advantage in taking to the hills. Noted retired Army General Bill Nash, "it's my judgment that there will be ample opportunity to use a variety of the advantages we have." *USA Today* quoted a senior military official familiar with plans to use thermal sensors, that the Pentagon is counting on the fact Taliban and al-Qaida personnel are "going to have to have some heat source" no matter were they attempt to hole up.

A combination of airborne, satellite and one-the-ground intelligence will probably be used to locate inhabited caves and bunkers, much as French troops used thermal sensors to locate snipers in the recent Balkan conflict.

Traffic Slows, But Southern Border Still Hot

Cross-border traffic of Mexican illegals slowed to a trickle in Southern Arizona, but sightings of Egyptian and Yemeni OTMs prompted concern north and south of the fence. A recent report in *World Net Daily* tells of a group of Middle-Eastern "exotics" who recently took up residence in Agua Prieta, Mexico across the border from Douglas, Ariz. Despite reported offers of up to \$50,000 a head for a smuggler to run them across, they found no immediate takers. Eventually, a group of Egyptians did manage to cross, but were apprehended by the U.S. Border Patrol and turned over to the FBI. A similar group of Yemenis simply disappeared.

The Mexican army has established roadblocks east and west of the popular crossing point and have been arresting numerous non-Mexicans attempting to cross. In the wake of the Egyptian and Yemeni scare, Mexican Special Operations troops moved in and burned numerous safe houses and staging areas. At the same time, gang wars broke out between a local "coyote" cartel and a Tijuana crime group over smuggling turf, with at least 10 assassinations so far.


The slowdown in Mexican migrants is blamed on the current state of the U.S. service economy and the anthrax scare. Local residents report, however, that some are still coming north and getting past the USBP. The Arizona governor activated National Guard troops for port-of-entry duty, but prevented their deployment into the surrounding countryside and direct cooperation with the USBP.

President Vincente Fox issued stern warnings to the unruly Mexican Congress, but not before numerous members publicly proclaimed that, "the U.S. finally got what they deserve" in the wake of the 11 September attacks on the World Trade Center. Bin Laden T-shirts are currently a hot seller in Mexico City.

— Jim Bartlett

Pro-Actively Limiting Nuclear Proliferation

In the fairly unlikely event that Pakistan's General Pervaiz Musharraf paid the ultimate price for his assistance in trying to rid the planet of Osama bin Laden, one point of concern is what might be done with Pakistan's estimated two dozen nukes if they fell to the hand of a successor who was not friendly to the West. The four U.S. aircraft carriers and various British ships cruising off the Pak coast — or even neighboring, India who is also a nuclear power — might prove to be too tempting a target.



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Although Gen. Musharraf has said that, "we have an excellent command-and-control system which we have evolved, and there is no question of their falling into the hands of any fundamentalists," concern exists in some quarters over the safety of these desirable toys. Writer Seymour Hersh reported in the *New Yorker* that shortly after the attacks on the World Trade Center, elements of the Israeli Sayeret Matkal Unit 262 anti-terrorist forces came to the U.S. to train with Army Special Forces as part of intense planning in the event Pakistan's nukes became vulnerable to renegade elements who backed terrorist causes — in which case attempts would be made to "exfiltrate" the war-heads to safe ground.

Aussie Gun Grab: One-Year Results

(The following was e-mailed to SOF by an Australian chief of police.)

I thought you would like to see the real figures from Down Under. It has now been 12 months since gun owners in Australia were forced by a new gun law to surrender 640,381 personal firearms to be destroyed by our own government, a program costing Australia taxpayers more than \$500 million dollars.

The first year results are now in. Australia-wide, homicides are up 3.2%. Australia-wide, assaults are up 6.6%. Australia-wide, armed robberies are up 44% (yes 44%). In the state of Victoria alone, homicides with firearms are up 300%. (Note that while the law-abiding citizens turned them in, the criminals did not and criminals still possess their guns!)

While figures over the previous 25 years showed a

steady decrease in armed robbery with firearms, this has changed drastically upward in the past 12 months, since the criminals now are guaranteed that their prey is unarmed. There has also been a dramatic increase in break-ins and assaults of the elderly. Australian politicians are at a loss to explain how public safety has decreased, after such monumental effort and expense was expended in "successfully ridding Australian society of guns."

You won't see this data on the American evening news or hear your governor or members of the state Assembly disseminating this information. The Australian experience proves it. Guns in the hands of honest citizens save lives and property and, yes, gun-control laws affect only the law-abiding citizens.

Take note Americans, before it's too late!

(name withheld)

State Department Seeks Former Military Talent

In its largest expansion in decades, U.S. State Department headhunters see former and transitioning military personnel as a key source of talent. The new hiring drive will recruit 1,433 new career personnel in FY 2002, 43% above the 2001 level — for foreign and civil service positions.

More than 500 former military personnel have gone to work for State in the past two years, and Department recruiters are targeting military personnel through on-site visits to military installations, through participation in military career fairs and employment panels, expanded cooperation with offices of the Transition Assistance

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Program (TAP), and via targeted advertising. More information on Foreign Service careers is available at www.foreignservicecareere.gov or by calling 202-261-8888. Individuals with administrative skills may wish to investigate possibilities as foreign service specialists should check out www.state.gov/m/dghr/hr/mlp or call 202-261-8851. Current civil service job openings are listed on the Office of Personnel Management website www.usajobs.opm.gov.

Winchester .22 Ammo Recall

Olin Corporation, through its Winchester Division, is recalling five lots of its WILDCAT® .22 long rifle high-velocity rimfire ammo (symbol WW22LR).

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The above five lot numbers may contain double powder charges, which may cause firearm damage and/or shooter injury. Any ammo from these lots should be returned to Winchester, who will issue coupons for replacement ammo from your local Winchester dealer.

For details on returning this defective ammo to Winchester, call toll-free 866-423-5224 (U.S. and Canada), visit their website at www.winchester.com or write the company at Olin Corporation — Winchester Divisions, Powder Mill Rd, East Alton, IL 62024 (Attn: .22 Caliber recall).

Covos Day Books' New Website

Covos Day, pre-eminent publisher of books on Southern Africa, has a new website, which give all the info on their books, authors and international distributors – plus how to order copies of how to contact their authors and chat online about their books. For those not familiar with Covos Day, it also has a detailed company profile, and glimpses of what is on the slate for 2002. Check them out at www.covosday-books.co.za.

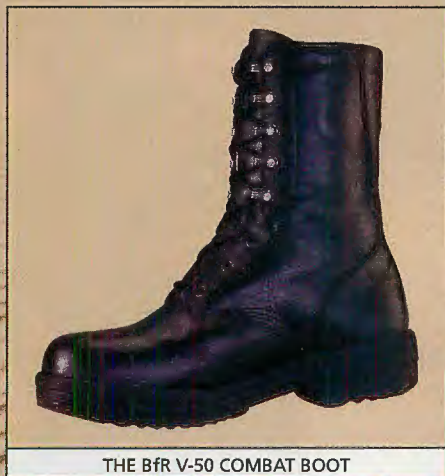
We're Not Making This Up

Speaking of career opportunities, Jesse Jackson has added former Chicago democratic congressman Mel Reynolds to the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition's payroll. Reynolds, you will recall, was one of the 176 criminals to receive federal clemency in Clinton's last-minute forgiveness spree. Reynolds received a commutation of his six-and-a-half-year federal sentence for 15 convictions of wire fraud, bank fraud and lies to the Federal Election Commission. He is more notorious, however, for concurrently serving five years for sleeping with an underage campaign volunteer.

This is a first in American politics, even for the dems: an ex-congressman who had sex with a subordinate won clemency from a president who had sex with a subordinate, then was hired by a political activist who had sex with a subordinate.

His new job? Youth counselor.

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PERFECTION

CIA Afghan Fubar Redux?

BY JACK WHEELER

As many recent commentaries have noted, there was no unified command of Afghan Mujahideen freedom fighters resisting the Soviet occupation of their country in the 1980s. There were about half a dozen major groups and a host of smaller ones. The legendary commander Ahmad Shah Massoud, assassinated by OBL (Osama bin Laden) agents just before The Atrocity, belonged to the "Jamiat" group led by Burhanuddin Rabbani. Qari Baba, the famous commander in Ghazni, who looked like a cross between Buddha and Genghis Khan, was part of the Harakat group. Ramatullah Safi was the most outstanding commander of the Gailani group. Abdul Haq was the same for the Younis Khalis group.

With one exception, all of these groups and commanders pretty much cooperated with each other. Their political leaders met and worked together (I attended some of their meetings), their commanders and bands of fighters did the same (which I witnessed in the field). Rarely did they fight amongst themselves, but focused instead on their common enemy, the Shuravi — Afghan for Soviet Russians. The exception was Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of the "Hezbis." I went inside Afghanistan with every major Muj group — except for the Hezbis. I met Gulbuddin and interviewed him in August 1984 — and found him to be an Islamic Fascist, an admirer of the Ayatollah Khomeini, and a hater of America. Everywhere I went inside Afghanistan in the 1980s, the story was always the same: The Hezbis spent their time fighting other Mujahideen groups for turf instead of the Shuravi. Rather than fight for the freedom of Afghanistan, Gulbuddin hoarded his weapons, planning a takeover of his country once the other Muj had liberated it for him.

It may — or it may not — come as a surprise to learn that the CIA was obsessively insistent that the lion's share of arms and support they gave to the Afghan Muj went to Gulbuddin. The term "obsessive" is in no way hyperbolic. The CIA's obsession to support Gulbuddin in vast preference to all other Mujahideen leaders bordered on the pathological. Every agent I

ever talked to — especially the armchair analysts at Langley — was insufferably condescending whenever I would state that Gulbuddin's people did no fighting, that the other groups were begging for weapons while the Hezbis had an oversupply of weapons they didn't use. The agents would patronizingly assure me their intel contradicted what I and every other independent observer who actually went into Afghanistan saw with our own eyes — so we all must be wrong.

A number of United States Congressmen also had figured out that the CIA was lying about Gulbuddin's effectiveness, and were well aware of the great danger he was to the future of Afghanistan. I once delivered a personally written note from one such Congressman to Burhanuddin Rabbani. We had met a number of times before, but on this occasion we had a long discussion. The note was an explicit request for Rabbani to have his people spare no effort to assassinate Gulbuddin.

"If you do not do this," I explained to Rabbani and his chief aide, "Engineer" Abdul Rahim, "any victory the Afghans achieve over the Shuravi will result in chaos and disaster. Gulbuddin has to be killed, killed dead, if Afghanistan is to have any future and any freedom." After our discussion, the Congressman's letter, of which no copies were made, was burned before my eyes. A few days later, Gulbuddin's Toyota Land Cruiser blew up in Peshawar, Pakistan. Gulbuddin's driver was killed, but Gulbuddin, although injured, survived. Subsequent attempts also failed.

When the Shuravi were forced to retreat in defeat in February, 1989, freedom for Afghanistan seemed clearly on the horizon. Yet right on schedule, Gulbuddin began his war for power. While Rabbani, as leader of the strongest and best organized freedom fighter group, attempted to put together a coherent government in Kabul, Gulbuddin began shelling the city. The CIA and their Pakistan counterpart, the ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence) forced Rabbani to accept a coalition government with Gulbuddin as Prime Minister, and with it, the resignation of Massoud as his Defense Minister. Massoud's departure as Defense Minister precipitated Afghanistan's collapse into the utter chaos that



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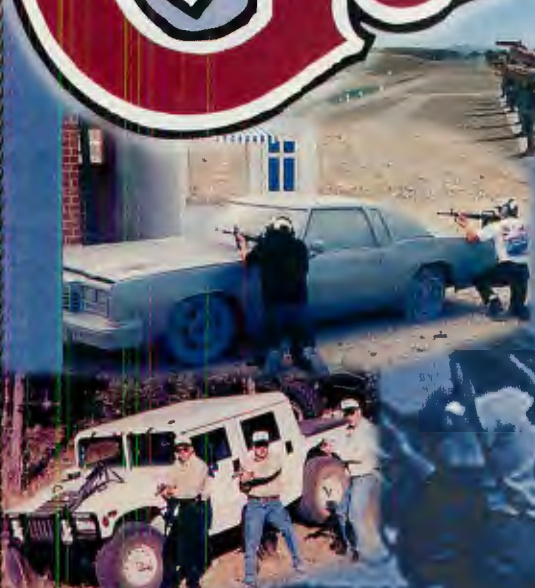
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made the Taliban possible.

Afghanistan, it must be understood, is an artificially created country, an ethnic hodge-podge glued together for the purpose of keeping the British Raj and the Russian Empire apart and not touching. Look at the map and you'll see this narrow sliver of Afghan territory, the "Wakhan Corridor," on the top right corner that goes all the way to China, barely separating what is now Tajikistan (but in the late 1800s Russian Central Asia) and what is now Pakistan (but then British India). Pakistan is similarly artificial, another ethnic stir-fry created as a refuge for Indian Muslims who didn't want to be ruled by Indian Hindus (who outnumbered them 2-to-1) when India got its independence after WWII.

North of the Hindu Kush mountains in Afghanistan, the ethnic majorities are Tajik and Uzbek. South the main tribe is the Pushtuns. Pakistan is composed of Baluchi nomads in its south western deserts bordering Iran, Sindhis in the southern Indus region, Punjabis in the central Indus – and along the border with Afghanistan it's all Pushtun. The Pak government has never exercised true sovereignty over the Pushtun area, known as the NWFA (North West Frontier Agency), and has always been terrified of the demand for an independent "Pushtunistan" breaking Pakistan apart. It was this fear that caused the Paks to freak out when Afghanistan went completely anarchic. Gulbuddin was their Pushtun guy. The Tajiks — Rabbani and Massoud — were out. The Paks had gotten their wish and the Chinese proverb about being careful what you wished for had become nightmarishly apropos. In desperation, they turned to a group of nutcase fanatics calling themselves "students" ("taliban") although most of them were thoroughly illiterate. The ISI saw an opportunity for a business relationship in the bargain — a

joint venture to operate the heroin business.

Sixty percent of the world's heroin comes out of Afghanistan. That only happens with the full cooperation of the governments involved — in this case the Taliban government in Afghanistan and the ISI "government within a government" in Pakistan. With the money from the heroin trade, the Taliban were able to bribe opposing commanders and proceeded to take over the country with hardly a battle. Only Massoud resisted.

The point to all of this history is that the CIA's buddy, Gulbuddin, seems poised for a comeback. The Taliban chased him out of Kabul and into exile with his Islamic Fascist friends in Iran. President Bush's clearly stated goal in Afghanistan is not simply the physical elimination of Osama bin Laden and all his cohorts, but the political elimination of the Taliban regime. Much attention is now being paid to former King Zahir Shah as a focus for a new government. The fly of Gulbuddin is an absolutely sure way to spoil this ointment on Afghan wounds. Thus the question of the moment is: Has the CIA abandoned its obsession with Gulbuddin? It is imperative for all those interested in the fate of Afghanistan to be watchful of any attempt to bring Gulbuddin back into influence. It is imperative that the instant this happens, Rabbani's people complete the job at which they failed. It is imperative, finally, to understand that if Gulbuddin is brought back to any prominence, it will be at the CIA's specific approval — which means that our own intelligence agency cannot be trusted to help win America's War with Muslim Terrorism.

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Israeli Homeland Security Tips

BY JOHN R. LOTT, JR.

What should Americans do to protect themselves? We have all heard that we should be observant, and report strange events to the police. But one option has not been encouraged in the media, indeed, quite the opposite.

News articles mention the jump in gun sales that have taken place since 9/11, but fail to mention the benefits and belittle those who buy the guns. We could learn something about responding to terrorism from Israel, and encourage more ordinary, responsible citizens to carry guns.

Israelis realize that the police and military simply can't be there all the time to protect people when terrorists attack: There are simply too many vulnerable targets. (When the police or military are nearby, terrorists wait until they leave.) And when terrorists strike, their first targets include anyone openly carrying a gun.

What Israel has found helpful in thwarting terrorist attacks is allowing law-abiding, trained citizens to carry concealed handguns. About 10% of Jewish adults there now have permits to carry concealed handguns.

In large public gatherings, a significant number of citizens will be able to shoot at terrorists during an attack — and the terrorists don't know who has them. During waves of terror attacks, Israel's national police chief will call on all concealed-handgun permit holders to make sure they carry firearms at all times, and Israelis have many examples where concealed permit holders have saved lives.

Americans only carry concealed handguns at a fraction of the rate of Israelis. To catch up, we'd have to grow from 3.5 million permits to almost 21 million.

Thirty-three states now have "right to carry" laws, which let law-abiding citizens above a certain age obtain a permit for a fee. (About half these states require also some training in gun use.) If more states pass such laws, or lower fees

under existing laws, America could greatly expand the number of law-abiding citizens carrying guns — and so become a safer nation.

States that pass concealed-handgun laws experience drops in murder and other violent crime. Better still, they see particularly dramatic drops in the types of attacks most similar to terrorist attacks - multiple-victim public killings.

Studying all these attacks in the United States from 1977 to 1999, Bill Landes at the University of Chicago and I found that deaths and injuries from multiple-victim public shootings fell by 80% after states passed "right to carry" laws.

In their warped minds, both terrorists and the murderers we studied are kamikaze-like killers, who value maximizing the carnage they can create. Even if the killers expect to die anyway, having guns at the scene can help deter these crimes in the first place by reducing the expected return on their "investment."

Just as in Israel, the type of person who is willing to go through the process to get a permit has proven to be extremely responsible. Permits are rarely revoked for any reason, usually very trivial violations, with permit holders losing their permits at only tenths or hundredths of 1%.

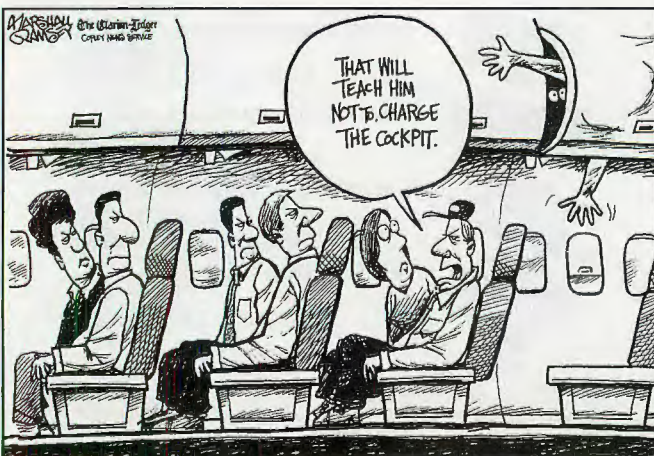
Nor are permit holders vigilantes. Up to 98% of defensive gun uses simply involve people brandishing their weapon. It is only as a last resort that people fire their weapon and even most of firings are merely warning shots.

Of course, the discussions of gun ownership have the normal dose of hypocrisy. Roll Call magazine reports that, since 11 September, some of the strongest congressional supporters of gun control have bought guns and gotten training. Congress certainly sees the benefits of armed individuals for its own safety: Members of Congress can carry guns around the capitol grounds. A new Zogby poll indicates that 66% of Americans support right-to-carry laws, so the real question is: Why the delay? (A full 88% support allowing retired police and military officers who are tested and qualified to serve as part-time air marshals carrying concealed handguns on planes. Presumably, the percentage is higher for these people to carry guns other places.)

The mantra that people should behave passively when confronted by criminals seems impervious to all the scholarly research that indicates that passivity is definitely not the safest course of action. For terrorists whose only goal is to inflict as much carnage as possible, the passivity makes even less sense. Before we give up yet more freedoms, let us make the terrorists worry about who might be armed.

John Lott is a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute and author of "More Guns, Less Crime" (University of Chicago Press, 2000).

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SPECCOOPS IN ACTION

Accounts From Inside Afghanistan

BY ROBERT K. BROWN AND JOHN HOGAN

Though most Special Forces troopers have been used in unusual missions in exotic corners of the world, few would have envisioned charging out of the shadows across the barren Afghan plains on horses with the descendants of Genghis Kahn. Into mortar and artillery fire no less.

This is the first instance of U.S. troops being involved in a horse cavalry charge since 16 January 1942, when the under strength E and F Troops of the 26th Cavalry, armed only with .45s, charged the Japanese in the village of

Morogn on the west coast of Bataan.

An after-action report dated 25 October 2001, quotes one of the SF troopers as follows:

"I am advising a man on how to best employ light infantry and horse cavalry in the attack against Taliban T-55s [tanks] ... mortars, artillery, personnel carriers and machine guns — a tactic which I think became outdated with the introduction of the Gatling gun. [The Mujahadeen] have done this every day we have been on the ground. They have attacked with 10 rounds AK's per man, with PK gunners [light machine gun] having less than 100 rounds ... little water and less food. I have observed a PK gunner who walked 10-plus miles to get to the fight, who was proud to show me his artificial right leg from the knee down. ...

"We have witnessed the horse cavalry bounding overwatch from spur to spur to attack Taliban strong points — the last several kilometers under mortar, artillery ... and PK fire. There is little medical care if injured, only a donkey ride to the aid station, which is a dirt hut. I think [the Mujahadeen] are doing very well with what they have. They have killed over 125 Taliban ... while losing only eight.

"We couldn't do what we are [doing] without the close air support. ... Everywhere I go the

U.S. Special Forces ride horseback as they work with members of the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan.



civilians and Mujahadeen soldiers are always telling me they are glad the USA has come. ... They all speak of their hopes for a better Afghanistan once the Taliban are gone. Better go. [The local commander] is finishing his phone call with [someone back in the States]."

The trooper then went off and joined a cavalry attack on a Taliban position.

In an after-action report dated 10 November 2001, a Special Forces trooper reported:

"Departed position from which I spoke to you last night ... [We left] on horse and linked up with the remainder of [the element]. I had meeting with [the commander]. ... We then departed from our initial linkup location and rode into Mazar-e-Sharif on begged, borrowed and confiscated transportation.

"While it looked like a rag-tag procession, the morale into Mazar-e-Sharif was a triumphal procession. All locals loudly greeted us and thanked all Americans. Much waving, cheering and clapping even from the women. ... USN/USAF did a great job.

"I am very proud of these men who have performed exceptionally well under very extreme conditions. I have personally witnessed heroism under fire by [two U.S. NCOs — one Army,



U.S. Special Forces troops are using pack animals to carry equipment as they work in Afghanistan.

one Air Force] when we came under fire last night, which was less than 50 meters from me. When I ordered them to call close air support, they did so immediately without flinching even though they were under ... fire. As you know, a [U.S. element] was nearly overrun four days ago and continued to call close air support and ensured [Mujahadeen] forces did not suffer a defeat. These two examples are typical of the performance of your soldiers and airmen. Truly uncommon valor has been a common virtue amongst these men."

The reason for the Pentagon's release of such operational detail and photos of U.S. Special Forces soldiers serving with Alliance

Cavalry may have had something to do with the politics of public relations. Could they have been spurred on perhaps, by the desire to quiet the armchair generals of the television talking heads in Washington and New York and deflect the usual pack of easily-spooked eastern print pundits who were starting to remind us of Vietnam-like quagmires and speak of the invincibility of an enemy that had killed a lot of Russians.

In an article written by the liberal Sy Hersh in *The New Yorker* on 12 November, one of those shallow eastern magazines published a disheartening account of how the ground war's opening was a failed operation in which U.S. Special



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Operations forces were frightened and mauled by "ferocious" Taliban fighters. Hersh is perhaps best known for his politically influential exposure of the events at My Lai in 1970 and more recently for his personalized attack in the pages of *The New Yorker* against Barry McCaffery, the highly decorated Desert Storm general.

According to Hersh, the first blood- ing for U.S. Special Operations forces came during a failed, or so he says, 20 October raid on Mullah Omar's compound. Hersh quotes an anonymous "senior military officer" as saying that the Taliban had "... scared the crap out of everyone." In addition, Hersh claimed 12 Delta troopers had been wounded, three of them seriously. General Steven Myer subsequently stated that no American had been wounded. Hersh also reported that an anonymous Delta Force operative told an anonymous "colleague" that the military should not "... put us in an environment we weren't prepared for. Next time, we're going to lose a company." Certainly, it would have been difficult for the Taliban to invent better press than Hersh gave them.

Fortunately, SpecOps were not quite as intimidated as Hersh would like us to believe. They have been blowing up bridges, designating targets for airstrikes, blocking roads and supplying and advising various anti-Taliban groups. According to Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld, "They've gone into places and met resistance and dealt with it. They're killing Taliban that won't sur-

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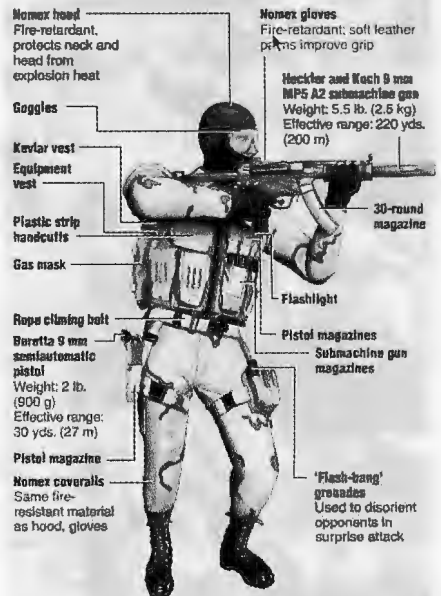
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Commando equipment

Gear carried by a U.S. Delta Force counterterrorist soldier:



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Sources: "U.S. Air Force Special Ops, U.S. Special Forces Airborne Rangers, Delta & Navy Seals, America's Special Forces: Weapons, Missions, Training," *Osborn's Oxford English Dictionary of the U.S. Military, specialforces.net, specialoperations.com*
Graphic: Eric Seitz and Steve Wilson, Fort Worth Star-Telegram



A U.S. Air Force SpecOps soldier stands guard near a U.S. Army Chinook helicopter in Afghanistan.

render and Al Qaeda that are trying to move from one place to another.”

Airforce SpecOps personnel accompanied Green Berets to coordinate airstrikes that proved to be so critical and cleared the way for Alliance and other anti-Taliban forces. On occasion, however, it was difficult to obtain timely airstrikes. Coordination of air tasking was reported as a bureaucratic problem not unlike the difficulties encountered during the Kosovo conflict. Apparently the target vetting procedure was so cumbersome that on occasion, SpecOps personnel located high priority targets that got away before they got clearance to engage.

On 16 November, as Rear Admiral Stufflebeam got ready to face a press corps skeptical about special operations, a note in the DOD web page that allowed listeners to connect to the audio portion of the briefing said: “Room noise is fed beginning a few minutes before the scheduled start time until the actual start of the briefings, even though the briefings may begin a few minutes late.” During the feed of “room noise” over the audio in the minutes prior to the Pentagon spokesman stepping up to the microphone, the voice of a female reporter was overheard saying, “Couldn’t we just give them rubber bullets and those spray nets?” God Bless America!

John Hogan has done numerous articles for SOF. ✕

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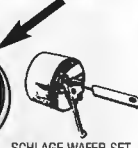
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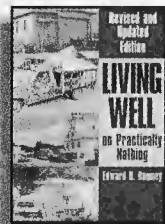
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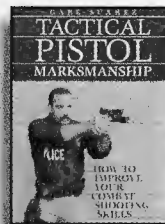
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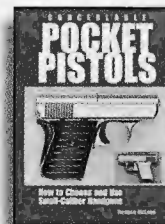
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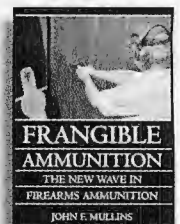
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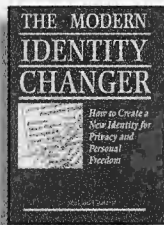
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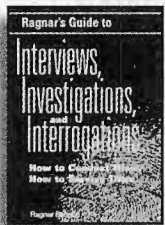
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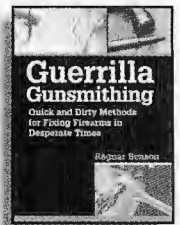
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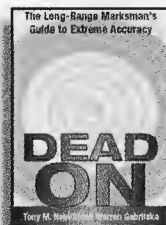
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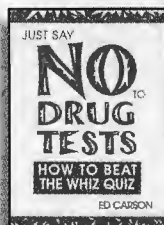
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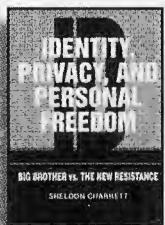
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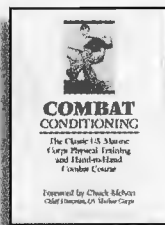
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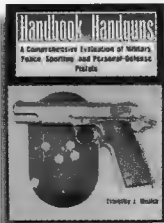
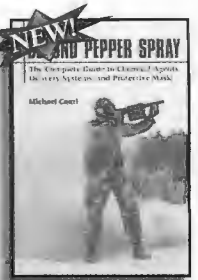
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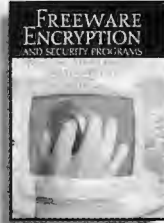
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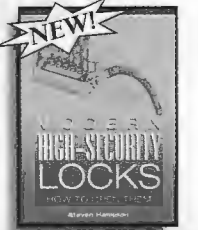
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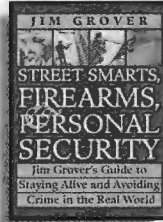
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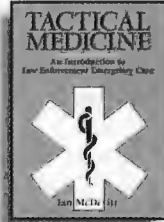
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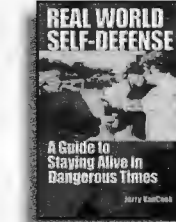
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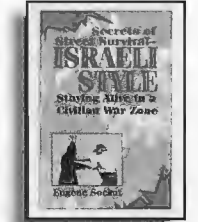
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Yes, This Is About Islam

BY SALMAN RUSHDIE

This isn't about Islam." The world's leaders have been repeating this mantra for weeks, partly in the virtuous hope of deterring reprisal attacks on innocent Muslims in the West, partly because if the United States is to maintain its coalition against terror it can't afford to suggest that Islam and terrorism are in any way related.

The trouble with this necessary disclaimer is that it isn't true. If this isn't about Islam, why the worldwide Muslim demonstrations in support of Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda? Why did those 10,000 men armed with swords and axes mass on the Pakistan-Afghanistan frontier, answering some mullah's call to jihad? Why are the war's first British casualties three Muslim men who died fighting on the Taliban side?

Why the routine anti-Semitism of the much-repeated Islamic slander that "the Jews" arranged the hits on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, with the oddly self-deprecating explanation offered by the Taliban leadership, among others, that Muslims could not have the technological know-how or organizational sophistication to pull off such a feat? Why does Imran Khan, the Pakistani ex-sports star turned politician, demand to be shown the evidence of Al Qaeda's guilt while apparently turning a deaf ear to the self-incriminating statement of Al Qaeda's own spokesmen (there will be a rain of aircraft from the skies, Muslims in the West are warned not to live or work in tall buildings)? Why all the talk about American military infidels desecrating the sacred soil of Saudi Arabia if some sort of definition of what is sacred is not at the heart of the present discontents?

Of course this is "about Islam." The question is, what

exactly does that mean? After all, most religious belief isn't very theological. Most Muslims are not profound Koranic analysts. For a vast number of "believing" Muslim men, "Islam" stands, in a jumbled, half-examined way, not only for the fear of God — the fear more than the love, one suspects — but also for a cluster of customs, opinions and prejudices that include their dietary practices; the sequestration or near-sequestration of "their" women; the sermons delivered by their mullahs of choice; a loathing of modern society in general, riddled as it is with music, godlessness and sex; and a more particularized loathing (and fear) of the prospect that their own immediate surroundings could be taken over — "Westoxicated" — by the liberal Western-style way of life.

Highly motivated organizations of Muslim men (oh, for the voices of Muslim women to be heard!) have been engaged over the last 30 years or so in growing radical political movements out of this mulch of "belief." These Islamists — we must get used to this word, "Islamists," meaning those who are engaged upon such political projects, and learn to distinguish it from the more general and politically neutral "Muslim" — include the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, the blood-soaked combatants of the Islamic Salvation Front and the Armed Islamic Group in Algeria, the Shiite revolutionaries of Iran, and the Taliban. Poverty is their great helper, and the fruit of their efforts is paranoia. This paranoid Islam, which blames outsiders, "infidels," for all the ills of Muslim societies, and whose proposed remedy is the closing of those societies to the rival project of modernity, is presently the fastest growing version of Islam in the world.

This is not wholly to go along with Samuel Huntington's thesis about the clash of civilizations, for the simple reason that the Islamists' project is turned not only against the West and "the Jews," but also against their fellow Islamists. Whatever the public rhetoric, there's little love lost between the Taliban and Iranian regimes. Dissensions between Muslim nations run at least as deep, if not deeper, than those nations' resentment of the West. Nevertheless, it would be absurd to deny that this self-exculpatory, paranoiac Islam is an ideology with widespread appeal.

Twenty years ago, when I was writing a novel about power struggles in a fictionalized Pakistan, it was already de rigueur in the Muslim world to blame all its troubles on the West, and in particular, the United States. Then as now, some of these criticisms were well-founded; no room here to rehearse the geopolitics of the cold war and America's



frequently damaging foreign policy "tilts," to use the Kissinger term, toward (or away from) this or that temporarily useful (or disapproved-of) nation-state, or America's role in the installation and deposition of sundry unsavory leaders and regimes. But I wanted then to ask a question that is no less important now: Suppose we say that the ills of our societies are not primarily America's fault, that we are to blame for our own failings? How would we understand them then? Might we not, by accepting our own responsibility for our problems, begin to learn to solve them for ourselves?

Many Muslims, as well as secularist analysts with roots in the Muslim world, are beginning to ask such questions now. In recent weeks Muslim voices have everywhere been raised against the obscurantist hijacking of their religion. Yesterday's hot heads (among the Yusuf Islam, aka Cat Stevens) are improbably repackaging themselves as today's pussycats.

An Iraqi writer quotes an earlier Iraqi satirist: "The disease that is in us, is from us." A British Muslim writes, "Islam has become its own enemy." A Lebanese friend, returning from Beirut, tells me that in the aftermath of the attacks on Sept. 11, public criticism of Islamism has become much more outspoken. Many commentators have spoken of the need for a Reformation in the Muslim world.

I'm reminded of the way noncommunist socialists used to distance themselves from the tyrannical socialism of the Soviets; nevertheless, the first stirrings of this counterproject are of great significance. If Islam is to be reconciled with modernity, these voices must be encouraged until they swell into a roar. Many of them speak of another Islam, their personal, private faith.

The restoration of religion to the sphere of the personal, its depoliticization, is the nettle that all Muslim societies must grasp in order to become modern. The only aspect of modernity interesting to the terrorists is technology, which they see as a weapon that can be turned on its makers. If terrorism is to be defeated, the world of Islam must take on board the secularist-humanist principles on which the modern is based, and without which Muslim countries' freedom will remain a distant dream.

Salman Rushdie is the author, most recently, of "Fury: A Novel."

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Setbacks on the Home Front

BY PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS

For many Americans, the events of 11 September have breathed new life into patriotism, but many in academia and the media remain hostile to America. The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (www.the-fire.org) has intervened in recent instances where academic administrators intentionally stifled patriotic expression and retaliated against those who voiced support for our country.

At Central Michigan University, students were ordered by university administrators to remove patriotic posters and the American flag from their dormitory. The students were told that these items were "offensive."

Duke University in North Carolina shut down Professor Gary Hull's webpage because he posted an article that called for a strong military response to the terrorist attack.

At Pennsylvania State University, a professor was reprimanded by the vice provost for academic affairs for advocating military action as a response to the terrorist attacks. The

professor was told that his comments were "insensitive and perhaps even intimidating," grounds for dismissal.

At Holy Cross in Massachusetts the chairman of the sociology department forced a secretary to remove the American flag that she had placed in memory of her friend Todd Beamer. Beamer was one of the passengers who challenged the terrorists on hijacked United Flight 93 that crashed in Pennsylvania.

At Lehigh University, the vice provost of student affairs ordered the American flag to be removed from the school bus.

At Johns Hopkins University, Professor Charles Fairbanks voiced his support at a public forum for an aggressive campaign against states that harbor terrorists. (All such states are Muslim with the exception of Cuba and North Korea.) He was accused of assisting people to commit hate crimes (against Muslims) and removed as director of the Central Asia Institute.

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democ zoos), students were granted a permit to protest the war against terrorism, but students who wanted to rally in support of U.S. policy were denied a permit.

At San Diego State University, an Arabic-speaking Ethiopian student overheard three Arab students expressing their delight in the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. The Ethiopian admonished the Arabs and was put on warning by university administrators for "threatening and abusive behavior." The Arabs were happy, he said. "I told them they should be ashamed." (Of four material witnesses arrested in San Diego in connection with the terrorist attacks, one is a San Diego State University student.)

At Florida Gulf Coast University, the dean of library services ordered the library's employees to remove stickers reading, "Proud to be an American," from their workspace on the grounds that such expressions were offensive to foreign students.

At the University of Missouri, the director of the university's TV station, KOMU, instructed employees not to wear red, white and blue ribbons in memory for those Americans killed in the 11 September attacks.

It is permissible to burn the American flag on university campuses. But don't try waving one. America-haters have the upper hand on many campuses. They are ever so sensitive to the feelings of Middle Eastern Muslims and completely insensitive to the feelings of patriotic Americans.

Multiculturalists, feminists and a variety of other left-wing bigots have destroyed scholarship and turned education into a campaign against Western civilization. They seduce the minds of the young and fill them with shame of their country. These home-grown terrorists in academic garb are a more dangerous

enemy than the Taliban and bin Laden.

While the U.S. conducts a war against terrorists, our own universities are conducting a terror war against the patriots on their campuses.

The Heritage Foundation is rightly calling for an end to World Bank and IMF subsidies to states that harbor terrorist organizations. We must also end taxpayer and donor subsidies to politically correct universities, which are Fifth Columns within our country.

Paul Craig Roberts is a columnist for The Washington Times and is nationally syndicated.

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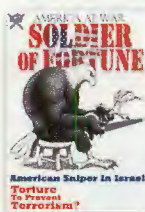




Flak



Tet 2001 At Home



September 11th, 2001 changed our lives forever. Whether we were there or not, listening to the radio, or watching television we were affected in ways that words cannot express.

I'm thankful for the leadership for their immediate response to the national threat, and our Fire Fighters, Police, EMS, and emergency Response Teams who immediately mobilized in efforts to prevent greater tragedy. As investigations continue, it is bearing out that what was prevented has been called by the generation that lived through it, either home or in service of our government, as "Tet 2001 at Home." This incident was in greater extent avoided by our national response teams and policy.

As that incident so changed the psyche of America in its thinking may this incident have the effect of deep rooting our thinking on the real world in real time.

Any former Special Operative knows that taking the knives

away, and other sharp objects are really insignificant for a trained team. With pencils, ballpoint pens, rolled newspapers, magazines, and a host of immediate martial moves they could incapacitate a crew and commandeer an aircraft in moments.

Air marshals are suggested in uniform. I encourage their use, but not in uniforms which point them out to the terrorist. I would want our men and women highly trained, highly skilled, working in teams anonymously, so that they may do their jobs correctly, and any activity is brought to bear upon the threat before they are ever aware of it.

I have family who are Arabic and as American as the blood in my veins, who shed tears, shared grief, and have lost friends like most of America and the world. To be acting against innocents because they wear a certain style of clothing, the color of their skin, the sound of their names, or their accents, is abhorrent anytime, let alone this time of national crisis. As Americans we should not and will not tolerate hate crimes.

All Americans, united with the countries growing in number everyday across the world, are in condemnation of this



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deplorable and unthinkable attack against the very thought of civilization. Where in our hearts can we find the room for hate of our own?

America is, and always will be a melting pot of the world. It's what makes us great. United, we can be even greater. We are after all "united, one nation under God."

Our leaders and our professionals understand our path is not going to be easy. I believe it's in the hearts of every American to make us better and stronger because of this. Ignorance is not part of the building process.

Terrorism has been around for centuries. To believe it's going away over night is naïve. It's naïvete that led us to this initial attack in the first place. Let us not repeat our mistakes. We have the people and the skills, which made this country the greatest in the world. It is now time to demonstrate our true resolve, not just today, but for the many tomorrows and those who follow in our footsteps.

Robert A. Slivatz, DPD-Ret.
Richmond, Mich.
SFALV@AOL.COM

Lincoln Brigade?

Is there any way that someone (who is too old for the military) could get to Afghanistan to fight with the Northern Alliance?

I work for a NYC agency, and was at ground zero every day in the week following the attack, trying to help. I saw the destruction first hand. I work construction, am fit and have the ability to leave for a year. However, to try and go there on my own would be very difficult, with the language problems, etc.

I thought if anyone could give some feedback on this, it would be your magazine. Perhaps there are wealthy businessmen sponsoring people. Anything you could tell me would be appreciated, if this idea is not too far out.

Dave Woerner
Brooklyn, NY

There is no shortage of fighters in Afghanistan, and we know of no legitimate sponsors for volunteers. Once the Taliban is mopped up, what Afghanistan really needs are builders, and that's right up your alley. Have you investigated what programs the Peace Corps or similar agencies may have to match your skills to the job there?



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Carry-On Carry

I completely agree with Dr. Fackler that the solution to hijacking is to allow retired military and law-enforcement personnel and concealed-carry permit holders to carry concealed handguns when they travel by air. All gun owners I have talked with about this since the events of 11 September say the same thing: ARM THE CREW! ARM THE QUALIFIED PASSENGERS! One thing that Dr. Fackler did not cover was how do we get the qualified armed passengers through security checks without arousing suspicion among potential hijackers? That question needs to be addressed by those of us who propose this type of protection.

Arch A. Brashears
Duncan, Okla.

AA Boxcutters

The Japanese did not bomb Pearl Harbor with explosives, they did not sink ships with torpedoes, nor did hundreds die from strafing machine-gun fire. Some tiny men with pocketknives killed thousands of innocent civilians.

This is exactly the kind of attitude that is leading us down the road of disarmament in this country. A bunch of whiney, scared sissies who want to be protected.

Nobody on that plane could have stood up and whacked one of those idiots with a laptop? I venture to guess that on a plane from Boston to LA there were numerous laptop computers. Could not ONE MAN have stood up and thrown lap-

tops at these idiots like a p***d off wife throwing dishes?

No, because this plane was loaded with the same people who think that Americans don't need guns, the Second Amendment needs to be repealed in order to make society safe. Self defense isn't part of their vocabulary. They are scared, shivering little people who want the cops and the military to take care of them. Where were your protectors today?


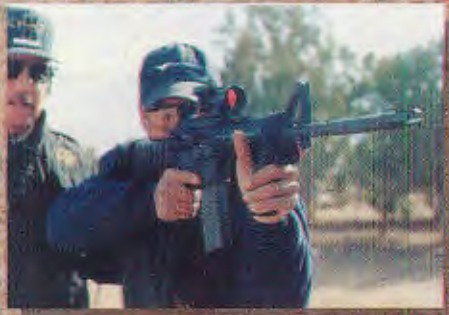


Did anyone notice that *not one* of those flights originated from Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma or any state where a good old boy would have slapped them down faster than they could mutter an unintelligible word? The problem isn't with our intelligence departments, it is with our own bravery. We lack it. I am *ashamed* for my country when people with pocketknives can kill thousands of my friends, neighbors and countrymen.

Pete Wiesner


Well, we hope you felt better when folks on the flight headed back to Washington, once they learned what had happened to the other hijacked planes, jumped the hijackers, knowing full well the best they could hope for was to keep the plane from being used to kill thousands of others. They were successful, but unfortunately they paid the ultimate price. The problem was not courage, but cognition. No one had ever hijacked a plane for a suicide mission before, and since the hijackers were in the cockpits and in control before anyone could react, it was logical to assume they just wanted to ransom the plane, to get home to Cuba, or similar scenarios of the past. You will note that subsequent attempts at hijacking (by isolated nut-cases) were put down instantly, and had passengers fighting over who got to pound him first. (See the next issue of SOF for a primer on how to take out hijackers.)

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Trust us: Had there been any concept at all what these scum had in mind, there would have been any number of people on board willing to risk a box cutter – but who were hesitant to get a Stew's throat cut just to avoid the usual detour to Havana.

419 Scam Spam

The article about Nigeria's great scamming operation was appreciated. For the past four months I've been getting e-mails from both Nigeria and Togo trying to convince me to invest in some crazy quick money-making plan. I obviously saw it as a scam straight away but how the hell did they get my e-mail address? (I'm only 16 and don't usually enter my address much.) I'll be waiting for more info on that subject.

Matthew

I bought a copy of *SOF* magazine a week ago for the first time. Read about the Nigerian scam letters. Also visited the *SOF* website. A couple days later, I get the exact same scam letter I read in your magazine sent to two of my e-mail addresses. That's one hell of a coincidence. Are these scammers getting e-mail addresses from your website's visitors? What's goin' on here?

Travis

What's goin' on is that these scammers have figured out they can save having to counterfeit stamps and type letters if they cast their net electronically, and with the right programs they can spam the world about as fast as they can type in an e-mail address – and for free. The e-mail addresses of readers visiting the *SOF* site are not available – even to us unless you give it, and even then not to anyone else. Last week this writer got a 419 letter addressed to my wife's name at my e-mail address, which we tracked back to a NICS registration. Hackers logged on and wanted us to resubmit our credit-card data within the hour of our signing up for AOL. In short, the system is porous as hell. If you want to fight back, first notify the server (likely as not it'll be Yahoo) that they are serving scammers. That probably won't do any good, but then you feel free to flame the scammers – after all, they gave you their e-mail address, didn't they? Just be careful you never give them more information than your e-mail address, which they already have. Or, at least forward their solicitation to the Secret Service (419.fcd@uss.treas.gov). ☒

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High Cost of Coalition

BY WILLIAM SAFIRE

WASHINGTON — Within a week after the terror attacks, 14 members of Osama bin Laden's family, among others, were spirited out of this country back home to Saudi Arabia.

The royals in Riyadh were worried that these Saudi nationals might be harassed by vengeful Americans. After all, 14 of the suicidal hijackers were Saudis; bin Laden's fortune is Saudi.

The swift extraction from the United States of the extended bin Laden family was testimony to the Washington influence of Ambassador Bandar bin Sultan.

The FBI, informed of the flight by the FAA, searched the family's luggage and briefly interviewed those without diplomatic passports, and watched the bin Ladens depart. The Saudis wanted their nationals out of American clutches in a hurry, and in Washington, what Bandar wants, Bandar gets. With seeming frankness and delicious leaks, the pilot-prince charms diplomats, disarms journalists (did you catch his recent media blitz?) and gets the Kingdom's way.

Such deference infuriates FBI agents who remember the terror bombing that killed four Americans who were training the Saudi National Guard six years ago in Riyadh. Before the FBI could query those rounded up about links to bin Laden, Saudi "justice" forced confessions from these bin Laden worshipers and promptly beheaded them; dead men told no tales.

Worse was the stonewalling by Saudi royalty of the FBI's investigation of the massacre of 19 American airmen in Dhahran's Khobar Towers. The FBI was not allowed to interview terrorist suspects nor to examine the getaway car; instead, our agents were shown selected videos. When a federal grand jury here finally indicted 13 Saudis, the Kingdom blew us off; no trial has been held there because the accused would expose corruption on high.

Prince Bandar was no help to State or the FBI in finding the terrorists behind these two separate murders of Americans by Saudi terrorists. But after 7,000 more Americans died at the hands of Saudi radicals, and the royal family wanted its and bin Laden's relatives yanked home, Bandar said "Jump" and the United States replied, "How high?"

The reason for our sensitivity to Saudi royalty's feelings is that Colin Powell is again into "coalition-building." Our invitation seems to say, "Help us catch this particular terrorist gang now and all is forgiven." To other Arab states, that message is in danger of being refined to, "Just give us names and hideouts so we can kill the terrorists who bombed us, and we'll pay you for it by leaning on the Israelis to appease the terrorists who are bombing them."

We are being told that in coalition-building for a war on terror, intelligence is all. If the Saudis, Pakistanis, Egyptians



"Osama bin Laden uses a cave . . . but we hide in here for protection."

— even the Iranians and Libyans — share their secrets about Islamic extremists with us, we will welcome them into civilized society and send money, too. It could go further: If Russia helps, we'll forget Chechnya, and if China helps, we'll go wobbly on Taiwan. Just say yes to "coalesce."

But let us not pay too much for too little. Saudi intelligence will rat on Iranian Hezbollah terrorists, but not on Hamas, and certainly not on the Saudi money trail to al-Qaeda. Syria will sell out some in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley but protect those headquartered in Damascus. In the same way, Egypt will blow the whistle on the brotherhood out to kill its president, Hosni Mubarak, but will turn forgetful about bin Laden's brigade.

The trouble with seeking to build a grand intelligence coalition is that too often those willing to rat on Terrorist A are harborers of Terrorist B at home and blackmailees of Terrorist C abroad. President Bush's grand spook strategy may be to buy a little from each source and them zap 'em all, but that's too simple by half.

In the current flurry of secret deal-making, the intelligence committees of Congress must ask: What is the Bush administration promising to which countries for what kind of covert help? Are we making deals that will track down al-Qaeda in Afghanistan but protect terror sites in Lebanon and Iran and bio-war labs in Iraq? How do we guard against disinformation from Pakistani spies designed to harm India's agents inside the Taliban, and vice versa? Overall, are we buying Phase I's retribution against one terrorist gang with a promise of no Phase II protective strikes against a terrorist nation?

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Take Aim At TERRORISM

Every month with **SOLDIER OF FORTUNE Magazine**

SOF's action correspondents have been on the ground in Afghanistan since 1980. We've been with the



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DEATH

BY A THOUSAND CUTS

If you thought Les Grau's *The Bear Went Over the Mountain* (SOF, January 2002) was interesting, this 423-page companion volume titled *The Other Side of the Mountain* will intrigue any military buff. Again there are battle maps galore, which detail scores of operations launched by the Afghan guerrilla resistance against Soviet forces. This is a work that is going to become required reading for anybody involved in what's going on today in Central Asia today.

In a foreword to this, Lieutenant Colonel Lester Grau's earlier volume on the Soviets' war in Afghanistan, the veteran U.S. Marine refers to them suffering what he terms, "death from a thousand cuts."

He explains that it didn't take the Soviets long to realize that they were trapped in an unwinnable war. Though the mujahideen seemed to have had no hope of winning, they fought on nevertheless, because "it was the right thing to do." Ultimately, having failed to achieve military victory, Moscow stemmed the bloodflow, cut their losses and withdrew, mak-

ing this the first Islamic defeat of a major power since the Ottoman Empire.

As this is written, the Taliban government has been run out of the north, and appears headed to continue the fight in the mountains, or if not that, anywhere it can fight a guerrilla war. It is steadfast that it can repeat the process. In the world of the *Q'ran*, this kind of sentiment has a powerful following.

Grau's study of guerrilla warfare from the perspective of the insurgent provides a remarkable insight to what might lie in store for our boys when we do go in on the ground. Clearly, this is not an ordinary war and the enemy is hardly your run-of-the-mill insurgent. He cautions too, that they aren't super heroes either, as we have witnessed in their rout by the Northern Alliance.

An Early Battle

Take the attack on Panjwayee, early on in the war against

The Afghan War of Resistance Against Soviet Forces

BY AL J. VENTER

the Soviets. The place was a district capital in the south and an onslaught, uncharacteristically, involved a large force of Mujahideen of about a thousand men.

The area involved — about 15 miles south of Kandahar — was militarily significant to both the Soviets and the insurgents because Panjwayee town and its surrounding hills provided a favorable base for action in the green zones that stretched all the way northwards to Kandahar itself. We see the same thing today in so many outlying areas where Coalition Forces are active: a huge region to the west of Kabul, south of Mazer-e-Sharif and, of course, Kandahar, itself the scene of fierce hostilities as we go to press.

Late September 1982, this minor mujahideen army was ordered to assemble near Panjwayee with the objective of dislodging about 300-government militia holding the place. Aware of the coming fray, the defenders turned every high point in the town into a fortress: Bunkers were created on rooftops and the nearby hilltops fortified with heavy weapons.

Where possible, women and children were evacuated.

The rebels shelled the place for two days but it seemed to have little effect. The Soviet Army HQ in Kandahar took a while to react. To begin with, they sent no support, believing that Panjwayee could look after itself. While this sentiment might have been well founded — at that stage of the war the mujahideen still had to show their mettle — it did reflect a defensive lethargy that became worse with time.

On the third day things began to change. Commander Mulla Malang — among the most notorious of the Kandahar rebels — decided to take the initiative and penetrate the town's defenses. He led a small group armed with picks and shovels and dug a hole through the town's adobe wall, finally breaking into a house. Once inside, they continued digging and advanced from one structure to another. Throughout, the defenders on the rooftops above them weren't aware of any of this activity.

Finally, the rebels broke through into a courtyard and caught a bunch of militiamen by surprise. Believing the town had fallen, this lot hightailed it out of Panjwayee and headed for the hills.

Having established a secure area, Mulla Malang signaled the rest of his force outside to join him. Avoiding the streets, they set about clearing a large part of Panjwayee of government forces. By early the next day, the district headquarters was in rebel hands. By now, the remaining pro-Russian troops still in town had taken substantial losses and some of them even suggested negotiations with the rebels. Before anything



The face of Afghanistan: Men under arms, as they have been for generations.

came of that, an armored Soviet/DRA column rumbled in from Kandahar.

Though many of the mujahideen withdrew, a lot stayed and fought, with fighting deteriorating to a succession of house-to-house battles. To these people — more accustomed as they were to rural hit and run raids — it wasn't what they liked and by morning all had pulled out.

The battle for the control of the town of Panjwayee is one of almost a hundred military vignettes detailed by Grau in this, earlier book on the war in Afghanistan. Very different from the later volume, it is a galvanized look at hostilities in Afghanistan specifically from the mujahideen perspective. Originally published in 1995 by the U.S. Marine Corps Studies and Analysis Division, it is soon to be reissued.

Throughout, the author uses first-person narrative provided by members of mujahideen combat teams who were there at the time. Thus, each time we get initial intent, the actual battle as and how it took place and, ultimately, a bare

enemy lines of communications and so on, Grau weaves an ambitious tapestry.

While working with the original guerrilla participants he uncovered some very unusual issues, like the raid, featured on page 389, to abduct a Soviet Army colonel from his house. This was in Arghanday, not far from Kabul: an incident that spotlights some devious rebel tactics.

According to the local rebel commander, Haji Mohammed Seddiq (his unit was affiliated to Hekmatyar's CIA-linked *Hezb-e-Islami-Gulbuddin* or HIH) the men under him spent days gathering information about the movements of the officer as he moved between the residence and his base on the outskirts of Kabul. What they discovered was that he rarely stayed overnight at his home. Rather, he would spend a few hours there after work and go back to his unit to sleep. Finally Seddiq made the unprecedented decision to snatch him from his home.

With help from somebody at a local gas station who had been watching his movements, three mujahideen dressed as government army officers approached the man's home. Seddiq, still in traditional garb, stayed out of sight. One of the uniformed guerrillas knocked at the door and told the officer's daughter that he was from his unit. He had an urgent message for her father, he said. When the Colonel finally appeared Seddiq came out of the shadows and told the Russian that if he uttered a word he'd be shot.

Having dealt with him before, he recognized the muj leader and offered no resistance.

Within moments the officer was being ferreted through the back streets of Arghanday before being handed over another local leader and taken to a nearby village. By then the alarm had been sounded. At about four the next morning the rebels were awakened by the approach of a squadron of Soviet tanks. Before anybody could react, the village was surrounded. Immediate reports spoke of Soviet and DRA (Afghanistan Government) troops occupying the surrounding hills. The rebels were trapped.

Their options limited, the Mujahideen — with the Russian officer in tow — made for a cave hideout in a



Does this young Muj long for peace — or for something to shoot with his Dashika? Only a stable regime and time will tell. (right) A corps of medics has always been low priority among Afghan fighters. Here, Dr. John Peters (black shirt) was in Afghanistan in the 1980s, training medics. As we go to press, he's back in-theater.

bones denouement. All this is a thoroughly useful and unusual scenario.

Grau's collaborator on the mujahideen side is Ali Ahmas Jalali, a former Afghan army colonel and graduate of the Infantry Officer's Advanced Course at Fort Benning and the British Army Staff Officer's College, Camberley. Jalali joined the rebels in 1980 and served as their top military planner on the directing staff of the Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahideen, an alliance of three moderate insurgent forces.

Snatching General Ivan

Handling the war in vignettes that range under more than a dozen headings such as raids, mine warfare, defending base camps, ambushes, counter-ambushes, siege warfare, blocking



hillside near the house. It had originally been dug specifically to hide weapons and equipment, but the Soviets knew about it because they posted a guard detail at its entrance.

There and elsewhere, the author stresses the porous nature of Soviet and DRA encirclement procedures that eventually allowed the mujahideen involved in this abduction to get away. Having escaped from the cave into a ditch after a shoot-out, they fought for another four or five hours before making a getaway into the hills.

As he writes: "The Soviets resorted to scatterable mines, ground sensors, parachute flares and other technology to escape, but mujahideen groups would exfiltrate singly or in small groups and regroup outside the encirclement. What is peculiar is that all this was allowed to happen in broad daylight, even with odds weighted against the rebels." He makes no mention of the fate of the captive colonel.

A Manual For All Ranks

Grau's contributions to the war effort are incisive. He presents us with an all-purpose book for the combat-arms company and field grade officer and NCO. Drawing on his military background, he succeeds in giving us a good under-

Vietnamese) and there was never a central leadership critical to the cause (which the Taliban achieved). On the tactical level, it was obvious throughout, that the guerrillas were prepared for a long war. Their goal was to hit, survive and fight again, he relates.

"Thus, they could not exploit success. After a victory they went home. Group leaders, let alone loose coalitions, could not hold a force together for long after a fight. Tactical victory could not be converted into operational gain," writes Grau.

He makes a seminal observation that is as relevant today as it was then: Afghans — one and all — identify themselves by what is termed *Qawm*. This is the basic subnational identity based on kinship, residence and sometimes occupation.

"Western people may refer to this as 'tribe' but this instinctive social cohesiveness includes tribal clans, ethnic subgroups, locality-based groups and groups united by interests." These aspects and more are dealt with in detail by Grau's co-writer, Ali Jalali, in a paper titled *Clashes of Ideals and Interests in Afghanistan*, given at the Institute of World Politics, Washington D.C. in July 1995.

As he says, the *Qawm* — and not Afghanistan — is the basic unit of social community. Outside the family, it is the country's most important focus on individual loyalty.

While the country has been variously characterized as a disunited land riven by blood feuds — some of which center on family and *Qawm* and quite often last for years — in the face of a serious threat these can be put on hold by local mullahs or village elders. Once that has subsided, factional hostilities can again be resumed afterwards.

What Grau also underscores is that when the Soviets were there, Afghanistan was not a guerrilla war a la Mao Tse Tung or, for that matter, Giap: "The Mujahideen weren't trying to force a new ideology and government on a land. Rather, they fought to defend their *Qawm* and their religion against a hostile ideology, an atheistic value system, an oppressive central government and a foreign invader," he states.

In so doing, 1.3 million died in the war and almost a third of the nation — about 6 million Afghans — left the country as refugees.

In the present conflict in which the United States is involved, in stark contrast, it doesn't need an astrophysicist to accept that it is the Taliban and not the Soviets who have brought all the commendable *Qawm* qualities to naught. And that, basically, is why the current phase of hostilities affecting this ravaged nation of more than 20 million people is something radically different from what it was a generation ago.

The War Logistics

You have to go through Grau's book to understand that in one respect, the war during the Soviet occupation was also a battle for communications: As he puts it: "a fight to strangle

Continued on page 68



SOFT FILES

In living memory, Afghanistan has never suffered a lack of arms, nor conflicts, nor men to fight in them. Here, in the mid-1980s, mujahideen get instruction on a Dashika HMG.

standing of guerrilla field-craft, tactics, techniques and procedures in this alien terrain.

As he explains, mujahideen tactics seemed to reflect a lack of any central cohesion, and while not standard, these seemed to differ from valley to valley and, for that matter, from tribe to tribe. Barely 15% of the guerrilla commanders were military professionals. However, since Afghanistan had a conscript army and most 22-year-old males had served their two-year obligations, most of the combatants were instilled with a basic military awareness that eased cooperation between the various rebel groups.

The mujahideen, he explains, were nominally divided into seven main factions, but the disunity was much greater. There were factions within factions, he says.

Further, the mujahideen would be difficult to fit into any line-and-block chart (like the Viet Cong or North

Israeli Civilian NBC Doctrine



By necessity it is one of the most progressive countries in the world in preparing its population for an attack using chemical and/or biological agents.

Preparing For The Coming Chemical Catastrophe

BY DAVID STONE

PHOTOS BY DAVID STONE AND M. BROOK

“At most, whoever is home will have seven minutes to complete last minute tasks and close themselves in our sealed room. We need to close all windows and lower all the blinds in the apartment, turn-off the gas and the computer and bring the mobile phones, chargers, electric kettle and microwave upstairs. If time permits or if two or more of us are home, we need put the bottles of frozen milk and water from the freezer, together with whatever perishable foods from the refrigerator fit into our camping cooler. It and with whatever fresh fruit and vegetables can be collected from the kitchen must also be carried upstairs. Last, make sure Vadar [our dog] is with you, then finish sealing the room.” I reviewed with my family what we had to accomplish in the final minutes between an actual warning and an attack. It was 26 September 2001 and it wasn't the first time we'd had such a discussion.

We last moved to Israel, Jerusalem specifically, during the summer of 1996. Not long afterwards, the U.S. began to face-off with Saddam Hussein. Talk was of a Gulf War II. Every Israeli household needed to prepare for Iraqi Scuds delivering a deadly mix of biological/chemical agents. I quickly realized I lacked the knowledge and experience to prepare my family for such an eventuality. I felt vulnerable, a feeling I rarely experience and do not like. I want my family secure, protected and as prepared as possible for whatever.

Immediately I began researching Israeli government planning and readiness for an unconventional attack, specifically defense against chemical and biological warfare.

Suddenly, Saddam backed down, but my education continued. I knew there would be a next time. Unfortunately I was correct, and more than once.

Israeli NBC Doctrine

The State of Israel has always been surrounded by hostile neighbors. Ever since Israel's founding, building codes have required all construction include "Mil-Spec" bomb shelters.

By necessity it is one of the most progressive countries in the world in preparing its population for an attack using chemical and/or biological agents. "At the time of the Gulf War, the IDF's *Pekood HaOrref* (the Home Front Command) adopted the new doctrine of 'A Sealed Body in a Sealed Room,' " explained colonel "A," commander of the home front's central region. Promulgated for the reality of biological and chemical warfare, that doctrine continues to be operational today.

"We realized that chemical agents, i.e. nerve and poison gas, fall and collect at the lowest point they can reach. However, our typical bomb shelter was located where best to withstand a conventional attack using high explosives. Generally it was built at ground or basement level. Not the best place to be in an attack using chemical agents." Colonel "A" continued. "Our thinking changed in light of the new threats we faced. We began to instruct the public to prepare an alternative shelter; a room, preferably an interior one, with few if any windows. It was to be sealed with plastic and tape, in a manner to make it airtight. Constructed in advance of an alert, only the entrance to the room was to be left unfinished. Once sealed inside (the sealed room), as directed by radio and TV broadcast or upon hearing or feeling an explosion, everyone was to put on their gas mask (the "sealed body") and keep it on until an "all-clear" was given."

Public Distribution Of Gas Masks

In the mid-80s the Israeli government started a program to provide each citizen with a free, individually sized gas mask in a kit which includes a filter, drinking tube and a self-injector of atropine. Special kits are issued for infants, children, and individuals with breathing difficulties.

There are even kits for men with a religious objection to shaving off their beards.

The Home Front Command operates a nationwide network of gas mask kit distribution centers that are open year round. It maintains a sophisticated, computerized record of

everyone who has or has not received a gas mask kit, and when and whether the kit contains components that need to be updated. Notices are mailed to one's home reminding you when its time to come in to have your gas mask kit refreshed. You can even call a home front command telephone number, 24 hours a day, and if you give them the barcode off your kit, they can tell you if you are still good-to-go!

As the likelihood of war comes closer to reality, the Israeli Broadcasting Authority begins televising follow-a-long instructions to the public. These public service infomercials take you through the initial opening of your gas mask kit; the process of becoming familiar with the kit's contents, each item's purpose and how and when each item is used. The TV is also used to conduct practice drills for properly donning one's gas mask.

The Heder MoGun — Israelis' Protected Room

In addition to stopping the reporting of where Scuds were landing (why allow CNN, the Catastrophe News Network as we call it, to continue to provide Saddam with a real time, forward observer), Israel learned several important lessons from the Gulf War. "First and foremost was that our bomb shelters needed to be replaced by protective rooms," explained Colonel "A."

"Since 1992, all new construction, be it a large, public building, a multifamily apartment complex or a single family home, has been required to incorporate a protective room; a super shelter capable of being closed airtight as well as being bomb-proof. It generally has electricity and a telephone hook-up. More elaborate private and all communal protective rooms have water, bathrooms and even a TV hook-up. Everyone living and working in post-1991 construction has the preferred protective room and need not construct a sealed room, unless they decide they want one."

The Heder Attoom — Israelis' Sealed Room

Israelis living in pre-1992 construction or who like myself opt for an alternative to a communal protective room have to construct a sealed room. There was no one single way to do it. An ability to improvise is important.

The only consideration authorities stress is that each person in the room needs one cubic meter of air per hour. Everyday-type plastic was not worth the effort to tape it up. Such plastic is effective in preventing the passage of chemical (and biological) agents for a few minutes, no longer. The public is urged to purchase only plastic meeting the Israeli Government Ministry of Defense specification for chemical warfare defensive use. Similarly, only sealing tape meeting the same Israeli "Mil-Spec" should be used. Do-it-yourself type booklets providing step-by-step instructions for construction of a sealed room are available at all gas mask distribution centers. Similar guidance can be found in the Hebrew and English language daily newspapers.

TV and radio public service announcements by the home front command inform the public when it is time to purchase both the materials needed to seal a room and also some of the basic supplies with which to stock it.

Silent Radio Broadcasting

Newspapers also begin printing lists of emergency supplies each family should put aside. Lastly, the public is informed that the time has come to go ahead and construct their sealed room. From that point forward, no one goes anywhere without his or her mask and the "Silent Radio" broadcasts begin.



The State of Israel has always been surrounded by hostile neighbors. Ever since Israel's founding, building codes have required all construction include "Mil-Spec" bomb shelters. By necessity it is one of the most progressive countries in the world in preparing its population for an attack using chemical and/or biological agents.

Yael, EMT instructor and police civil guard sniper, is a veteran of the 39 Scuds which hit Israel in '91. She helped with my education. "Another Gulf War lesson learned was that in some areas of the country not everyone could hear the air raid sirens, especially during the winter when you sleep with your windows closed. And most of the attacks came during the hours of darkness. A silent radio broadcast was instituted. Before you went to sleep you turned on your radio and tuned in to a special station which was on the air, but not broadcasting. You heard static, white noise, nothing else from this silent station, until an alert sounded. At that point the station began a live broadcast which woke you up and informed you that it was time to enter your sealed/protective room."

... And Sealed/Protective Room Supplies

Next time came six months later. Yael and I were asked to appear on English-language radio to discuss preparedness. We compiled a short list of items that should be in one's sealed/protected room. Our list began with the warning, do not use any kind of flame in your sealed/protected room. More important than preventing a fire, was preventing the consumption of oxygen and the creation of smoke that would have no way to exit. We were mindful of Colonel "A's" briefing.

"Given a worse case scenario, it could take six hours or more, from the time the home front command got a sample to a testing center, until the absence of a chemical or biological agent could be confirmed. The time one would be required to remain in a sealed/protective room would be longer, conceivably significantly longer if the presence of a chemical or biological agent was confirmed." Only then could the public be allowed out of their airtight shelters. Conservation of oxygen would be critical.

For that reason, the first items we listed were a flashlight(s) with spare batteries and chemlights. A radio with bat-

teries, bottled water, food and a basic first aid kit with personal medications came next. For the folks in a room without a toilet, a bucket with plastic bags and sanitizing chemicals was suggested. A map of Israel, so one could follow radio reports of where things were happening, rounded out the list. We reminded everyone to bring their telephone with them into their sealed/protective room, as well as their mobile phone and charger and not to forget to take all telephone numbers they might want to call. Both types of telephone systems are necessary. In time of general emergency you can't depend on mobile telephones. There are so many calls that the system overloads and you simply can not get through.

Practical Considerations And Personal Preparations

In '97 my wife, two daughters, German shepherd and myself lived in a new building that had a common Protective Room for the families in its 12 apartments. Our guard dog is highly protective of my daughters. He could not be in the protective room with our neighbors. My girls would be hysterical if we were to leave him alone. So we decided to construct a sealed room. We would use the master bathroom and adjoining hall area, the most well protected interior area in our apartment. The bathroom had the additional features of running water and a toilet.

First, I concentrated my efforts on locating and purchasing the items we lacked for either our sealed room or other preparations. Then I organized, stowed and/or packed our emergency and other supplies. I made sure that all our stored emergency foodstuffs and bottled water were in sealed, moderate size boxes so any one of us could quickly move the boxes into our sealed room or a vehicle. I worked according to categories:

Food and Water — for consumption while confined in the



The Home Front Command operates a nationwide network of gas mask kit distribution centers that are open year round. It maintains a sophisticated, computerized record of everyone who has or has not received a gas mask kit,

sealed room, for use in our apartment for the period we might be unable to leave due to contamination outside; Energy — for cooking, for lighting and for receiving radio broadcasts; Medical — for routine aches and pains, for more advanced first aid contingencies and for use in a chemical and/or biological weapons attack; Protective Gear — for use in the sealed room, for use in traveling under conditions of initial or secondary contamination; Individual — all-inclusive, three-day travel packs for each family member and for our dog; and Apartment/Room Sealing Materials — Israeli "Mil-Spec" plastic and tape and silicone caulk.

It was at this point that I tried on my gas mask. I wear eyeglasses. I discovered I could not get my gas mask on while wearing them. I had not thought about my glasses till now. With gas mask in hand, I went to the eyeglass store until I found a pair of frames that were both comfortable to wear under the mask and did not interfere with its sealing properly. I bought the frames on the spot and was able to pick up my new "gas mask eyeglasses" the next day.

Next, I turned to our 72-hour packs. Each of us had already prepared a large size backpack with three days' worth of clothes, towels, hygiene and grooming items and necessities. I apportioned out emergency/survival gear between our four packs. Now I customized the packs to cope with chemical and/or biological contamination. I added two gas mask filters, pocket-size hooded plastic poncho, several pair of latex gloves and boots, film canister with a shaker top filled with Fuller's Earth, several gauze pads and an orange Biohazard disposal bag. Each backpack still had plenty of room left for adding food and water.

Preparations were complete. Should the worst happen, we were ready for a prolonged stay in our apartment without public utilities — electricity, gas or water. We had a 150-liter water-storage container and our gas barbecue grill ready to move inside from the porch. The only thing left to do was to actually seal our room, when the order would be given. We were good-to-go should it be necessary. We simply had to fill the backpacks with food and water, grab our sleeping bags, first aid kit and move-out. Our family was ready.

Then it happened again.
Saddam backed-down.

The First War Of The Century

It is now 1 October 2001. The United States of America, the great satan to Muslim fundamentalists, has been attacked. In response, the world's one true great democracy has declared war on terrorism. Informed Israeli military sources believe Saddam or one of Israel's other neighbors will respond to an American attack on any Muslim country by attacking Israel. Many within Israel's anti-terrorism community advise "as likely" that any attack on Israel will include the use of biological and/or chemical agents. The U.S government has been involved in serious preparation for such an attack on American soil since the Gulf War.

Both governments believe a chemical or biological attack is more a matter of when than if.

We moved to a new apartment 16 months ago. My older daughter now lives in her own place, a newly constructed apartment with its own protected room. I needed to prepare both our home and her's. My daughter's situation was relatively easy. Her apartment's protected room had a special window and door, both armored and designed to close airtight. I simply collected food, bottled water, bio/chem protective

Continued on page 78

bin Laden's BLUEPRINT FOR TERROR

Written by a Former Special Forces U.S. Army Sergeant

BY FRANK HOPKINS

Egyptian-born Ali Mohamed was a skilled double agent who became a naturalized United States citizen, and a sergeant serving with U.S. Army Special Forces at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. Mohamed was sentenced on October 20th to what is believed to be a 25-year reduced sentence, after having pled guilty to charges stemming from his role in the Al Qaida bombings of the United States Embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Nairobi, Kenya that killed hundreds and wounded thousands. But in his heyday, Mohamed was chief instructor of young Al Qaida recruits, and has been cited by a number of law-enforcement and Middle-Eastern sources as author of the manual *Military Studies in the Jihad Against the Tyrants*. This volume reads like an Arabic adaptation of *FM21-31(U)* that has been hybridized with *The Anarchist's Cookbook*. The book was seized by British authorities in Manchester, England, at the home of a suspect in the East African embassy bombings, and subsequently placed in evidence.

It came as a real jolt to the West when a group of men with a medieval mindset and what was assumed to be minimal schooling were able to adroitly access state-of-the-art technology and pervert it to dramatically effective terrorist use. Four airliners were commandeered and flown into or at high-profile targets in the United States, killing thou-

sands in the single worst pre-emptive strike in the history of terrorism.

Upon reflection, however, what is even more disturbing to analysts is that such fragmented groups, whose previous efforts were characterized by effective but almost extemporaneous attacks on single targets, were sophisticated enough to do the meticulous long-term planning and coordination required by the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

The evil plot had been years in the making, planning, coordination and execution. Even given that the United States security apparatus was shamefully inadequate and the targets were sitting ducks, the strategy and tactics employed, and the level of sophistication required, make it obvious that this enemy is not limited to strapping dynamite on pubescent youths and assuring them the gates of martyr's paradise are but a blinding flash away.

These men, albeit possessed of a maniacal dedication and delusional purpose, had been professionally trained, not only in the skills required to fly a modern jetliner into a skyscraper full of undefended innocents, but in the secret operative's skills of blending into and operating for years, comfortably within the target society and culture.

Which begs further questions: Who trained them? Who else was trained? What else were they trained to do? What are the further and future targets?



Only when these questions are answered, can the national security apparatus address the problem and take affirmative measures to thwart future attacks on further fronts.

And the answer to the question of who trained them appears to hit uncomfortably close to home. Who trained them? It would appear that the U.S. Army Special Forces did.

Not only that, but more than a year ago American authorities obtained a copy of the training manual which was written for the September 11 terrorists and their ilk by a Special-Forces-trained former U.S. Army Sergeant, when it was gathered as evidence against the man who is believed to have authored it. U.S. authorities had it. They even an English translation of it. Pity indeed they did not study it as closely as the Al Qaida operatives, who appear to have followed it almost slavishly. Further, in 1995 Philippine police learned of their plan to use commercial airliners as flying bombs. CNN's Eileen O'Connor reported on this, a week after the attack on New York and Washington — even listing their potential targets, that included the World Trade Center, the Pentagon — plus the Sears Tower in Chicago, the TransAmerica building in San

Studies leaves no doubt in the reader's mind that there is no innocent too pure for Bin Laden's wretched, syphilitic pirates to attack, no method too heinous to use, no act too cowardly, and no length to which their minions would not go to destroy civilization as we know it, so that the craven cadre they represent might substitute society as they envision it in its place. Collateral damage? It's what they live for, as their terror is predicated upon it.

And this manual trains the Al Qaida operatives to live among us, blend in, and use us and our country's assets in a symbiotic way, while they make us their target.

Some of the scenarios they envision for the American heartland will curdle your blood.

Holy Homicide

Like all sophists who would bend the minds of True Believers and enlist them to consider and ultimately do the unthinkable, the author(s) of this volume evidently were of the opinion that a good deal of attention must be paid at the onset and throughout their training to molding the operative's outlook. As a result, a good propor-

This enemy is not limited to strapping dynamite on pubescent youths and assuring them the gates of martyr's paradise are but a blinding flash away.

Francisco, and CIA headquarters. Combine the fact this was known, and that last August a Minnesota flight school told the FBI one Zacarias Moussaoui inquired about time on a 747 simulator to learn how to fly, but not take off or land, and it was obvious that U.S. security agencies had better dust off their radar screens. Also obvious from even a brief perusal of *Military Studies*, is that America had better trade in its conventional radar for a FLIR, as these eclectic madmen have much more planned — and possibly in the works — from all directions and against all vulnerable targets, not just flying airliners into landmarks.

Excerpts from this manual for mayhem are quoted below, as they will be instructive in familiarizing the body politic with just what these people have planned for us. Equally instructive may well be the obvious: Once again America has spent a great deal of effort training, which in this case was equivalent to arming, our enemies.

Ali Mohamed

Former Sergeant Ali Mohamed copped a plea bargain in October 2000, and his testimony has been instrumental in the U.S. government being able to use the trial for building a comprehensive indictment against the entire Bin Laden terrorist juggernaut for the embassy bombings, not merely the four other suspects who were sentenced last October.

Even a cursory perusal of Mohamed's *Military*

tion of what was intended to be a manual of operations is devoted to reiterating the perverted rationale behind what they would do. In the process it weaves in much artful dodging of obvious truths, and a heavy dose of Orwellian double-speak/think.

In some of the introductory chapters, after roundly calling for Allah's curse upon a host of Islamic leaders of Islamic countries who disagree with their particular approach to matters, the author lumps these "godless and apostate" regimes together with the rest of the world into a very target-rich environment called planet Earth:

"The confrontation that Islam calls for with these godless and apostate regimes, does not know Socratic debates, Platonic ideals nor Aristotelian diplomacy. But it knows the dialogue of bullets, the ideals of assassination, bombing and destruction, and the diplomacy of the cannon and machine-gun."

Considering the Egyptian background of the presumed author, this and other vitriolic diatribes against Islamic regimes may well stem from the straightforward treatment that their operatives received at the hands of Egyptian authorities in the wake of their assassination of President Anwar Sadat. The description later in the volume of the techniques of torture that captured terrorists may expect to have used on them are, let us say, typically Middle-Eastern.

Having established that those of Islamic faith

who do not agree with them are godless and apostate, the author wraps himself in Koranic verse to rationalize terrorizing their "apostate" brothers and various Great Satans: "against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror into [the hearts of] the enemies of Allah and your enemies, and others besides whom ye may not know, but whom Allah doth know."

As difficult as it is for the Western and civilized mind to understand the philosophical outlook of these men, some insight might be gained from seeing what it is that they choose to criticize among their "apostate" brothers in what we assume is Egypt: "The bitter situation that the nation has reached is a result of its divergence from Allah's course and his righteous law for all places and times. That [bitter situation] came about as a result of its children's love for the world, their loathing of death, and their abandonment of Jihad..." In other words, little suicide grasshopper, the loathing of death is a terrible sin.

Although one can assume such organizations would take whatever recruits they can get in hopes of molding them into suitable implements, the manual lists a number of "Characteristics of Members that Specialize in the Special Operations," not the least of which, of course, is "Tranquility and calm personality (that allows coping with psychological traumas such as those of the operation of bloodshed, mass murder)" [emphasis ours]. A stomach for mass murder is not the



Artist's sketch showing former U.S. Army sergeant Ali Mohamed (left) appearing in Manhattan Federal Court before Judge Leonard Sand, October 20, 2000.

only characteristic valued in special operators, of course, as willingness to commit unspeakable acts against innocents is nothing without the skills to get the dirty-work done. Other attributes that *Military Studies* lists include, "good training on the weapons of assassination, assault, kidnapping and bombing... possessing cleverness, canniness and deception... special ability to keep secrets and not reveal them to anyone... patience, ability to withstand, and religiousness... courage and boldness..."

In the finest tradition of bent religious cults through-

out history, an attempt is nearly always made in this manual to justify ungodly acts by assuring the trainee that for them, it's OK. Under the heading "Guidelines for Beating and Killing Hostages" the writer assures the trainee that "Religious scholars have permitted beating. They use a tradition explained in Imam Mosallem's manuscript, who quotes Thabit Ibn Ans, [etc. etc.]... In this tradition, we find permission to interrogate the hostage for the purpose of obtaining information. It is permitted to strike the nonbeliever who has no covenant until he reveals the news, information, and secrets of his people. The religious scholars have also permitted the killing of a hostage if he insists on withholding information from Moslems..."

Having established that Allah allows them some sort of undefined special dispensation to beat and kill prisoners and hostages, the writer then puts the teaching technique in the third person as he delineates dozens of methods of torture that

On 18 October, four students and co-conspirators of Ali Mohamed were sentenced to life without parole, in U.S. District Court in New York, for their roles in the bombings of the U.S. Embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Nairobi, Kenya. Judge Leonard Sand also fined each \$33 million.

Having been found guilty by a jury last May, the subjects could have received the death penalty — and would have, except that some jurors felt the death penalty might make some of them into martyrs. Lawyers for Mohamed Sadeek Odeh had asked jurors to depart from federal sentencing guidelines and cut some slack for their client, since U.S. support for Israel and the presence of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia were a "provocation" to Muslims. Defendant Wadih El-Hage, also sniveling to get his sentence reduced, denounced both the embassy bombings and the attacks of

11 September, saying that "the killing of innocent people and noncombatants is radical, extreme and cannot be tolerated by any religion." El-Hage is a U.S. citizen, and a former secretary to Osama Bin Laden.

Students and Co-Conspirators: Life Without Parole

The other convicts, Mohamed Rashed Daoud Al'Owhali and Khallan Khamis Mohamed, did not speak at sentencing. Al'Owhali told FBI investigators he had ridden in the truck that delivered the explosives in the Nairobi bombing, and Mohamed had confessed to helping grind the explosive and transport the bomb used at the embassy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

A further conspirator and codefendant in the East African embassy

bombings is Mamdouh Mahmud Salim, born in Iraq but a Sudanese citizen who was captured in Germany and extradited to the United States. Salim is yet to have his day in court, although he was originally slated to

stand trial with the others. A year ago, he allegedly sharpened a comb into a dagger and stabbed a prison guards in both eyes, blinding him and paralyzing him on one side. As a result, Salim was to have been tried for attempted murder before going

on trial on the terrorism charges, but his trial was slated to begin in lower Manhattan the week the World Trade Center was attacked and destroyed. It has been postponed indefinitely.

Ali Mohamed, having copped a plea and turned state's evidence a year earlier, was sentenced last July to an undisclosed prison term believed to be 25 years, predicated on continuing cooperation with ongoing investigations and prosecutions. —F.H.

Who trained them? It would appear that the U.S. Army Special Forces did.

[state security] secret agents use: “hanging by the hands... hanging by the feet... beating with sticks and electrical wires... putting out cigarettes on skin... shocking with electrical current... attacking with vicious dogs... making [the victim] sit on a stake... throwing in a septic tank... pulling out the nails and hair... burning with fire... standing on toes against a wall pressing with the fingers for long hours... beating on cuts and sore parts of the body... giving a lot of water or watery fruits [then] his penis will be tied... hitting the genitals with a stick or squeezing them by hand... dragging over barb wires and fragments of glass and metal...” Threats and psychological torture are also covered, as well as citing incidents of abuse to suspect’s families by “security personnel.” Detailed advice is given on how captured agents can resist such torture and abuse.

Servicing Targets for Allah

Very thorough attention is paid to the assassination of individuals, and how to target them through individual weapons and poisons. Aside from the adaptation of some industrial solvents mentioned to create contact poisons, the poisons described for use by their operatives have been known — and proved effective — for centuries. Full instructions are included for their creation and use in-theater, and ruthlessly administered they would be lethally effective, even as a weapon of mass destruction.

A pack of lunatics toiling over a cauldron of spoiled veggies seems more like something from a Grade B movie plot than a 21st Century scenario for mass murder, but keep in mind that in 1984 an eccentric Eastern religious cult in Antelope, Oregon, poisoned some 750 people with salmonella administered through local restaurants, in an attempt to keep voters away from the polls while they stole a local election. Had they used botulinum toxin instead of salmonella, they could have killed those 750 — and undoubtedly thousands more — had that been their intent. Where would the aspiring terrorist get botulinum toxin? Al Qaida’s handy textbook of terror teaches how to make it in your own little halal kitchen: “fill a pot with corn and green beans. Put in a small piece of meat and about two spoonfuls of fresh excrement. Pour the water into the pot until... leave the pot in a dark, moderately warm room for 15 days...you will notice...” and so on in explicit detail. The manual notes that “.000028 grams will kill a person, this poison is absolutely deadly” and notes that the operator “can make three or four pots at the same time.” Medical texts state that one billionth of a gram of high-quality botulinum toxin is lethal.

The text goes on to teach in some detail how to extract many other deadly poisons from tobacco, potato sprouts, and other common plants, seeds and reptiles with no more than a drip coffee maker and a bean pot. And how to administer them: “Put on a pair of leather gloves and very carefully bore about 12 holes in each of the prayer beads. After completing that, spray the prayer beads with [a common industrial solvent]. The Abrin will kill your victim slowly, but relentlessly.” The symptoms as the victim dies are described in sociopathic detail.

“Assassinations Using Cold Steel” receive similar explicit, almost gleeful coverage, teaching the operative how to effectively target the victim using blunt instruments (“the two eyes,” “the areas of the tongue,” “above the genitals, with the

end of the club” etc.), with a knife (“anywhere in the rib cage,” “the pelvis,” “the end of the spinal column directly above the person’s buttocks” etc.), with a rope (neck only) or “assassination using hands” (choking, eye-gouging, or “grab the testicles by the hand and twist and squeeze”).

Mission Statement

The manufacture and use of explosives has been a favorite of terrorists ever since the advent of gunpowder. The writer of this manual favors the use of explosives as a weapon of mass terror and destruction, for all the obvious reasons, and explicit details are given on the manufacture and deployment of improvised and conventional explosives to create the most devastating effect and most dramatic loss of life. It is interesting to note that the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya was targeted specifically because U.S. ambassador Prudence Bushnell was a woman, and it was assumed her death would attract more publicity.

But these fanatics are not just angry young men without a mission. As stated in the text:

“Missions Required of the Military Organization:

The main mission for which the Military Organization is responsible is:

The overthrow of the godless regimes and their replacement with an Islamic regime. Other missions consist of the following:

1. *Gathering information about the enemy, the land, the installations, and the neighbors.*
2. *Kidnapping enemy personnel, documents, secrets, and arms.*
3. *Assassinating enemy personnel as well as foreign tourists.*
4. *Freeing the brothers who are captured by the enemy.*
5. *Spreading rumors and writing statements that instigate people against the enemy.*
6. *Blasting and destroying the places of amusement, immorality, and sin: not a vital target.*
7. *Blasting and destroying the embassies and attacking vital economic centers.*
8. *Blasting and destroying bridges leading into and out of the cities.”*

Does that read like today’s headlines?

Inasmuch as their actions, deeds and training documents illustrate a maniacal ruthlessness and willingness to kill as many innocents as they can, the next point of interest is what are their next targets.

The answer to that is simple, and obvious: *you* are. And it may be safely assumed that for the most part, the personnel and other assets required for further attacks on United States citizens, facilities, infrastructure, liberties and our way of life are already in place.

All operations thus far, successful or not, have evidenced appropriate attention to reconnaissance, planning and preparation. Major targets suitable for weapons or techniques of mass destruction, seem to have been given planning and preparation directly proportional to their importance. Their second attack on the World Trade Center, by hijacked airliners, was planned for years, and the intelligence gathering, training and preparation spanned a like period. Not only was the planning very detailed, the coordination required during

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Journalist Economics 101

For two points, how much would it cost a U.S. journalist to visit Afghanistan, intending to report on the struggle of the Northern Alliance against the Taliban? More than \$4,000 dollars? Preposterous! The air fare is much less than \$2,000. How much more could it possibly be?

(Fast forward a month or so to the dreaded travel voucher):

Air fare Denver to New York City and return	\$277.50
Air fare New York City to Munich and return	\$326.00
Overnight Munich (outbound)	\$100.00
Air fare Munich to Dushanbe and return	\$820.00
Tajik visa (permission to enter and leave)	\$300.00
Expediting fee for Tajik visa (Russian agency New York)	\$80.00
Tajik customs entry fee ... sort of...	\$50.00
Tajik exit visa (permission to <i>really</i> leave)	\$160.00
Tajik press accreditation/listing for border crossing	\$40.00
Afghan entry/exit visa from Dushanbe embassy	\$200.00
Hotel in Dushanbe (outbound) 10 days @ \$45	\$450.00
Convoy passage to Afghan border (\$300 split 6 ways)	\$50.00
Car from Border to Khoja Bahouddin (\$200 split 2 ways)	\$100.00
Khoja Bahouddin to "front lines" and return	\$100.00
Khoja Bahouddin to border (courtesy of network)	\$0.00
Van from border to Dushanbe (\$300 split 2 ways)	\$150.00
Hotel in Dushanbe (return) 3 days @ \$45	\$135.00
Additional air fare Dushanbe to Munich	\$400.00
Excess baggage charge Dushanbe to Munich	\$88.00
Tajik customs exit fee ... sort of ...	\$20.00
Overnight Munich (return)	\$100.00
Additional air fare Munich to New York City	\$200.00
Additional air fare New York City to Denver	\$200.00
	<u>\$4,346.50</u>

Living High

Initial Entry

In Tajikistan, I encountered a recently established Afghan bureaucracy, starting with The Embassy of the Islamic State of Afghanistan in Dushanbe. I also became acquainted with The Foreign Ministry of Tajikistan, as well as the Russian military attaché at that office, who controls the permits to cross the Tajik/Afghan border. I determined that, while it was quite possible to get into Northern Afghanistan, it was also cumbersome, and a bit expensive. The first surprise was that the Tajik visa provided to me in New York for \$380, the one that was specifically marked "double entry," was not valid for exit from Tajikistan. After a day's worth of discussion, I was allowed to purchase a "real" Tajik visa for an additional \$160. Concurrently, I paid \$40 to be placed on the list allowing me to cross the border, and which reserved a place on a government-escorted convoy for which I would have to pay an unspecified additional charge.

Next, I was granted permission by the Afghan consulate to purchase an Afghan entry/exit visa for \$200. This brought the permit total to \$780, and I hadn't even paid for my ride yet. And why, one might ask, didn't I

(opposite) Russian-controlled ferry crossing into Tajikistan northwest of Khoja Bahouddin. (right) B-52 raid on ridgeline east of Talaqon. Friendly positions never received any return fire, even though they were within easy howitzer range. The Taliban must have been either well-dug-in, or simply shell-shocked.

simply contact the American Embassy to assist me through this bureaucratic tangle? Because, believe it or not, the answer is a curt "You shouldn't be here. Go home."

Even so, as a journalist, I had it easy compared to some other people. The task of a privately funded aid worker in this arena is especially frustrating. It takes a full week, and a fair amount of money, to become "registered" as an aid group. After that, there are seemingly endless fees, passes, authorizations, visas, priority lists, and so on. An objective observer would be tempted to conclude that this officialdom wants foreign food, medicine, and



health care workers around even less than it wants journalists.

During my stay in Dushanbe, I learned of a U.S. aid group that had purchased several truckloads of food and medical supplies from a private vendor. This group had sent representatives to Tajikistan because it wanted

discount after, of course, the aid group had paid the return shipping to Dushanbe. This transaction was typical of a very familiar Third-World scenario, which involves lots of money disappearing into the system, without a shred of aid reaching the people for whom it was intended.

On The Afghan Plain

Economics And Extortion 101

TEXT & PHOTOS BY KARL KIROV



to make sure that the resources donated on the other side of the planet actually made it to the proper destination. They had, they thought, secured all necessary authorizations, and had paid to have the supply trucks taken across the border at the Amu Darya River by ferry for delivery to Khoja Bahouddin in Afghanistan.

The trucks were denied permission to cross the border by the Russians, for reasons which were, at the time, unclear. The Tajik vendor offered to buy the supplies back, but at a hefty

Author Kirov at ferry on Afghan side of Amu Darya, preparing to cross back into Tajikistan.

Foreign Exchange

The monetary unit of Tajikistan is the *somon*, plural *somoni*, named for an ancient Tajik conqueror. The subunit of somoni is the *diram*, at 100 dirams per somon. There are no coins in circulation, diram notes being about two-thirds the physical size of somon notes. Denominations range from one to 50 dirams, and one to 100 somoni, the largest bill that I observed in circulation. The current exchange rate is about 2.50 somoni per U.S. dollar. Even though Dushanbe merchants would readily accept U.S. currency, it proved wise to deal in somoni as much as possible.

The vendors tended to become confused when dealing with Americans,



and frequently quoted a price that was numerically correct in somoni, but with dollar units. This was especially true of cab drivers, who would routinely ask for 10 dollars to cover a 10-somoni fare. If one stayed reasonably alert, and dealt with honest merchants, prices were more than reasonable. A cab across the city cost 10 to 15 somoni, and lunch (A Turkish cheeseburger with tea, followed by another cheeseburger, followed by two scoops of incredibly thick chocolate ice cream) came to 6 somoni (actually, 5 with tip).

I changed most of my U.S. currency at the hotel, which worked OK until I was in a particular rush early one morning. Stepping impatiently to the front desk, I dug into the recesses of my camo nylon billfold, and produced an old-issue \$50 bill. After a minute or so, I was able to gain the attention of the lone Tajik desk clerk, who was making careful handwritten entries in a triplicate-carbon ledger. Coolly giving me her attention, she held the note up against the light, looking for the magnetic strip. Finally, she shoved the bill back across the counter and glared at me. "Ne," she stated flatly. "Really, Miss," I said quickly, "it's OK, it's just an older version." Her glare hardened. "Nyet!" she snarled, as if switching to Russian would improve my comprehension. She sat down, returning her undivided attention to the hand-written ledger, and I wound up borrowing money for breakfast.

And They're Off

Ten days, one Tajik visa, one Afghan Visa, another Tajik visa, one Tajik press accreditation, one Afghan embassy approval, one Russian military attaché

Khoja Bahouddin vehicle park/maintenance yard. Be prepared for a long wait. (inset) Khoja Bahouddin rebuild, Afghan-style. Doing the most with what they have. As yet, no spare part shipments are being received.

approval, one border list, and one-sixth share of a government-approved convoy van later, I departed Dushanbe for the Tajik-Afghan border at 1005 hours on a Saturday. The total distance was about 250 kilometers, and we traveled during daylight.

I was impressed with the design and quality of the roads, built during the Soviet Republic days. For three hours, the line of nine vehicles negotiated a succession of low mountain ridges and valleys, until we reached Farqur, 50 km north of the border, where the convoy halted for a little over an hour. There the pavement ended. For the next three hours or so, the driver coaxed the dual-wheeled van over an increasingly unreasonable tangle of braided, more or less parallel, trails that would have been challenging for most tracked vehicles.

Recent heavy rains had further degraded the trafficability, and there were frequently several vehicles stuck at a time. In the rolling sections, the driver was able to gun the engine downhill, splash through the bog at the bottom, and use the momentum to gain dry purchase uphill. In the flat sections, though, there was no recourse but to pick the best trail and churn away, hoping that the mud wasn't deeper than the axle. Surprisingly, all of the

vehicles arrived, one by one, at the first border checkpoint as the sun fell below the hill line.

From there, I caught my first glimpse of the Amu Darya River (The Oxus, to the ancient Greeks). After waiting my turn, I handed my passport and press pass across a thick wooden table to a uniformed Tajik official, who inspected the docu-

ments by the dim yellow light of a tired double-cell flashlight. He checked the visa stamps, made a notation, and handed the documents back to me with a slight nod.

The checkpoint looked like a very muddy truck stop, with more than 20 heavy vehicles parked cold and unattended. Since most of them were pointed toward the river, I guessed that they were supply trucks waiting to cross, although I couldn't get a look inside them to see if they were loaded. A few hundred meters beyond the checkpoint, the van stopped at a gate in a multistrand barbed wire barricade, where I disembarked and carried my gear to the ferry, now silhouetted against the water in the evening gloom. A uniformed Russian officer collected all of the passports, and checked them against a list. Satisfied, he instructed us to board the ferry.

Once the baggage was stowed, we were told to get back off, and to reboard one at a time, so that our names could be matched to our passports and checked off another list. At last, a Tajik soldier started a diesel tractor engine on the upstream side of the craft, engaged a cable capstan, and winched us across the 200 meters of water to Afghanistan.

On the south bank of the river, I

arranged to split the \$200 (U.S. currency only) fare with another journalist, loaded my gear, and was driven off into the night. The 20-km ride from the Amu Darya to Khoja Bahouddin was a bit smoother than the approach from the Tajik side, except that the new driver used the slight improvement in roadway to triple our previous speed. We two Americans rode in back, while the Afghan driver and shotgun (literally, in this case, as the passenger carried an AK-74) occupied the front seats. Arriving well past midnight, we first tried to find shelter for the night in the ACTED and UNICEF compounds, but

nizations and press corps were the main benefactors. In the shared ABC/CBS compound, 3-meter diameter satellite antennas occupied the corners of the compound just inside the wall, and 5-kw generators hummed continuously. Afghan work crews busily laid brick, mixed mortar, cut beams, and hauled supplies as the compound progressively became a more permanent fixture, with individual masonry rooms for the network personnel. In addition to the construction workers, the networks retained a number of drivers, security guards, and translators, each receiving an average of \$100 cash per

across the border, but it was expensive and took a day's worth of negotiating with the Russians.

Once in Khoja Bahouddin, Afghan-operated vehicles could be hired for \$500, one way, to go to Feyzabad, 100 km to the east. The previous month, it had cost a hefty \$800 more for one person to go to the Panshir north of Kabul, about 250 km beyond Feyzabad over rugged terrain. With snow on Salang Pass and increased demand, the current price for the same trip was \$8,000, which was apparently what the traffic would bear — literally.

The international aid groups with



were told that there was “no room at the inn.” We were eventually granted entry by an extremely gracious European correspondent, who had rented a bi-level adobe guest house from the foreign ministry, and had an unoccupied room in the basement.

Come One, Come All

In the mid-80s, a few U.S. journalists traveled to Afghanistan to observe first-hand the *Mujahideen* (Holy Warriors) in their struggle against a then-common enemy, the Soviet Union. Among these select few was *SOF's* Editor/Publisher, Robert K. Brown. From his contact with Afghan soldiers of this era, Brown described a proud, honorable group of people who were not only worthy adversaries to the Soviets, but were also just pretty good folks in general. In those days, it wasn't really much of a problem to contact the *Muj*, once you convinced them that you were on their side. Brown and others who spent time with the *Muj* related that the Afghans were reluctant, and mostly flatly refused, to take money from their American guests.

Times Have Changed

Business was booming in Khoja Bahouddin. The international aid orga-

day, up from \$50 per day a few months ago. Many Afghans in the area, perhaps understandably, had come to believe that foreigners, particularly Americans, were rich lambs to be fleeced.

During the following days, I spoke with a number of people, mostly Europeans and Americans, who painted a picture of a highly localized, foreign-journalist-based, Afghan entrepreneurial economy around Khoja Bahouddin. The only practical overland route into non-Taliban Northern Afghanistan was the Russian-controlled ferry across the Amu Darya from Tajikistan, since the bridges south of Termez, Uzbekistan, crossed into Taliban-held Mazar e Sharif. Khoja Bahouddin, 20 km east of the ferry, had become a Northern Alliance administrative center, and the drop-off point for journalists.

Foreigners entering from Tajikistan were offered transportation from the crossing site to Khoja Bahouddin for a non-negotiable \$200 in US currency per vehicle (mostly Russian-made 3-passenger jeeps). This same trip used to cost what had seemed like an exorbitant \$100. Fares had doubled in the past month, as the influx of network media personnel increased both the demand for transport and the supply of money. It was possible to get a vehicle

Afghan troop formation west of Khoja Bahouddin three days before the victorious push to Mazar-e-sharif.

permanent compounds in Khoja Bahouddin, UNICEF, ACTED, and the like, maintained their own fleets of vehicles. Fuel and other supplies all had to be shipped from Tajikistan, and were expensive. These groups had found that the cost of rendering aid was ratcheting steadily upward.

The common currency was the U.S. dollar, recent-issue only. Local currency (the traditional monetary unit is “Afghans”) was available and had value, but was impractical for most transactions. I exchanged 150 U.S. dollars at the bazaar for an equivalent 17 million Afghans, which came in 17 bundles of 100 10,000-Afghan notes each, handed to me in a plastic grocery sack and weighing about five pounds. This made each 10,000-Afghan note worth about 9 cents, and a 2-inch thick bundle of them roughly equivalent to a \$10 bill. I found this currency to be useful for buying staple food items (bread, rice, and tea), but at prices equivalent to those in southern Tajikistan. I sus-

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Underground Combat:

The U.S. Army fought subterranean battles in the tunnels of Vietnam. Following a few tear-gas grenades or a charge of C4 plastic explosive, "tunnel rats" would go underground to find Viet Cong or North Vietnamese combatants or materiel. Small, slender soldiers armed with flashlights and .45-caliber pistols would crawl into the Vietnamese tunnels for reconnaissance and possible close combat. Almost all of the Vietnam-era tunnel rats have left active duty now, but the need to train for this type of underground combat remains. The U.S. Army's experience with tunnels was not unique. From 1979 to 1989, the Soviet 40th Army waged war against the mujahideen in Afghanistan. Part of this war was fought in the tunnels of Afghanistan, which were larger and far more extensive than those in South Vietnam.

Welcome to the Underground

In the Middle East, water is life itself. Over the centuries, the inhabitants of Iran, Afghanistan, and Western Pakistan have taken some extraordinary measures to preserve and conserve this precious resource. Since many of the rivers are seasonal, rural inhabitants have found ways to prolong their agricultural water supply during the dry months. Open-ditch irrigation is used in the northern part of Afghanistan, where the water table is relatively shallow, but in eastern, southern, and southwestern parts of the country the extensive underground karez system (a man-made water system) is necessary. When flying over these regions, the neat lines of mounds that lead from the foothills across the desert to the "green zones" of vegetation surrounding towns and villages are a common sight. The mounds are entrances to shafts that intersect the water table and that are connected to each other by tunnels. The deepest shaft highest on a hillside intersects the water table. Water moves through the tunnels and into irrigation ditches and fields near the towns and villages. Some of the karez tunnels stretch for several kilome-

Stereophonic Blasting, Tunnel Rats, and the Soviet-Afghan War

BY LESTER W. GRAU AND
ALI AHMAD JALALI

ters underground. Some historians claim that the karez system was already working when Alexander the Great went through Afghanistan in 328 B.C.

The karez tunnels are dug by farmers. Occasionally they use large ceramic tile drainpipes to shore up weak sections of the strata. Digging the tunnels is dangerous work because the shafts usually range from 9 to 15 meters deep, with some more than 30 meters deep. The tunnels are labor- and maintenance-intensive. Silt that collects in them must be cleaned out annually and hauled to the surface by a windlass equipped with goatskin bags.

The karez tunnels also have another use. Since ancient times, villagers have used these underground waterways for shelter against invading armies. Chroniclers of Afghan history in medieval times refer to the use of the karez by civilians and combatants during the invasion of Genghis Khan's Mongol armies in 1221 A.D. The Mongols set out to destroy all major cities in Afghanistan and neighboring areas and made every effort to massacre the inhabitants to the last man. The Mongols did not go into tunnels after the refugees. Rather, a day or two after destroying a town, the Mongols sent a small detachment back to the area to cut down any resurfaced survivors. They

did this to ensure that no potential resistance against Mongol rule remained. The Mongols had learned during earlier campaigns that the official surrender of a city did not guarantee permanent submission of the area, because the inhabitants often rose against the invader after his main force had moved on.

During the Soviet occupation, both villagers and local mujahideen guerrillas used the karez system as a hiding place. Since the towns and villages are close to the karez, they provide ready-made shelters from bombing and artillery attacks. Guerrillas dug caves in the sides of the shafts, where they hid weapons and themselves, and used the karez tunnel network to move undetected to and from ambush sites and attack positions. According to mujahideen eyewitness accounts, Soviet forces passing through an area usually did not try to flush out the refugees and guerrillas hiding in tunnels. However, in major cordon-and-search actions, the Soviets and Afghan communist forces made special attempts to destroy the underground mujahideen.

Underground Warfare 101

In the mid-1980s, the Soviets conducted a tunnel-neutralization course in Paghman Province, about 14 kilometers northwest of the capital city of

Kabul. The course was designed for Afghan special forces soldiers and was similar to courses provided for Soviet sappers in Afghanistan. The training was necessary because men do not readily go underground to fight. Tunnels are ideal locations for booby traps, knives thrust from a side tunnel, and cave-ins. Additionally, tunnels teem with snakes, scorpions, and other creatures. After a short course in theory, participants in the tunnel-neutralization course moved to the field for practical applications.

The soldiers conducted a reconnaissance to find shaft entries, which usually were marked by mounds. The Soviets taught the soldiers to form into two covering groups and hold two adjacent shafts simultaneously. Since civilians often hid in the karez, the first step was to yell into the shaft and demand that anyone sheltering inside come out. The soldiers were taught to yell without exposing themselves to answering gunshots from inside

the karez. If no one answered or came out, the next step was to throw two RGD-5 concussion grenades in the karez. After the grenades exploded, it was customary to again demand that the occupants surrender because the karez was about to be blown up.

The depth of a shaft was determined from the sound of a falling rock tossed inside. After determining the depth, soldiers used a mirror to reflect sunlight down into the shaft and examine it. If there were areas they could not examine, the soldier tied a cord to a grenade, lowered the grenade to the suspect area, and detonated it. Only then would soldiers lower a blasting charge on detonating cord. They usually used captured TC-2.5 or TC-6.1 Italian antitank mines because many of them were available. The soldiers then lowered the first charge to the bottom of the shaft. Next they prepared a second charge using three or four meters of detonating cord and 80 grams (2 3/4

pounds) of high explosive. Then they tied or taped the detonation cord to a standard hand-grenade fuze. They would weight the firing assembly with a rock or wedge it near the mouth of the shaft. Two trained soldiers could prepare a 20-meter shaft for detonation in about three minutes. All that remained was to pull the ring on the firing assembly. After four seconds, the charges would explode. During the explosion, it was necessary to stand at least five or six meters from the mouth of the shaft, because the explosion caused rocks to fly from the shaft like a volcano.

The Soviets' placement of the charges was particularly effective because the top charge exploded a fraction of a second earlier than the bottom charge. The top explosion tightly plugged the shaft with gases. When the bottom charge exploded, shock waves from it would rebound off the higher gas mass and rush back down and against the sides of the shaft and tunnels. The movement

Afghanistan's deadly tunnels

U.S. and allied soldiers trying to find Osama bin Laden will confront the maze of old irrigation tunnels that helped Afghan guerrillas fight the Soviet occupation in the 1980s.

Karez irrigation tunnels
Have been used for centuries to carry groundwater downhill from "mother wells" to lowland farms
Many have run dry and are now being used by Afghan guerrillas

Tunnels typically 3 ft. (1 m) high

Some tunnels large enough for trucks, tanks

Guerrilla refuge
For 800 years, Afghans have fought invaders using karez tunnels for shelters, infiltration routes

Osama bin Laden, a civil engineer, designed and paid for enlargement of tunnels during 1980s war

As much as 100 ft. (30 m) deep; 30 mi. (50 km) long

Tunnels most common in southern, eastern Afghanistan

Anti-tunnel tactics

- Soviet forces used devastating "stereophonic blasting" against Afghans hiding in tunnels
 - Anti-tank mine exploded halfway down tunnel
 - Second, lower mine explodes an instant later
 - Deadly shock wave forced downward and through tunnel network
- U.S. "bunker buster" bombs used in air attack on Taliban and al-Qaida forces
- U.S. fired cruise missiles against tunnels in 1998, failed to destroy terrorist hideouts there

150 km
150 miles

© 2001 KRT
Source: The Sunday Times (London), Defense Week, U.S. Army Foreign Military Studies Office, The Mirror (London)
Graphic: H. McComas, Pat Carr, Lee Hubang

created a deadly overpressure between the two charges. The Soviets called this the "stereophonic effect."

The stereophonic effect can be multiplied by preparing two adjoining shafts for simultaneous detonation. The Soviets prepared each site as described above. Then they joined the detonation cord at the midpoint between the two shafts and taped the detonation cord to a standard hand-grenade fuze. When the charges were set off, a wider area of overpressure and destruction occurred. The Soviets called this the "quadrasonic effect."

A Fistful of Roman Candles

After the dust settled, the Soviets tossed a smoke pot down each shaft. The smoke is nontoxic and ventilation in a karez system is excellent. If the smoke disappeared, it meant that some tunnels were intact and that the search team could go in without wearing respirators. Search teams consisted of three or four men. Two of them would search to the front while the rest guarded their backs from a sneak attack from the rear. The lead man had a line tied to his leg. If the lead man found enemy materiel, he tied the line to it and rejoined the team so they could all drag it out. If the lead man was killed or wounded, his team members used the line to drag him back.

The search group was armed with knives, entrenching tools, hand grenades, pistols, and assault rifles. A flashlight was taped to the forestock of the automatic rifles. The magazines of the assault rifles were loaded with tracer ammunition.

The Soviets developed a psychologi-

cal weapon for underground combat using their SM signal mines. The SM is basically a Roman candle that shoots a series of red, green or white signal stars from five to 20 meters. The signal mine simultaneously emits a siren-like sound. Although designed for trip-wire release by an unwary enemy, the SM can be safely ignited while holding it in one's hand. The Soviets taped from three to six signal mines together and, holding them in one hand, they ignited and fired them into a tunnel. A brilliant shaft of light, screams of sirens, and a fountain of signal stars filled the tunnel for nine seconds. The signal stars ricocheted off the tunnel walls like tracers. When the mines stopped, the Soviets found the unsuspecting foe covering his head with his arms, even though there was no real danger unless a signal star hit someone in the eye.

Flame- Fuel-Air Explosives, and Fuel

Flamethrowers were also used against those hiding in the karez. The Soviets had replaced their short-range PLPO-50 backpack flamethrowers with the RPO-A flamethrower. The RPO-A is a disposable system with a maximum range of 1,000 meters, a maximum effective range of 600 meters and a minimum range of 20 meters. The round is 93mm in diameter. It has three types of projectile: thermobaric (fuel-air), incendiary, and smoke. The fuel-air round was most effective against the karez. The problem was that flamethrower gunners drew more enemy small-arms fire than radiomen. An incendiary round from an RPO-A could clear out any opposition on the surface around a shaft entrance, but

no flamethrower gunner wanted to lean over the mouth of a karez to fire down the shaft — the gunner might be shot before he could fire a round. The Soviets developed the following method for these tunnels: Soldiers first secured the shaft entrance and then locked and cocked an RPO-A flamethrower with a thermobaric round. After tying two lowering lines on the RPO-A and a string on the trigger, they slowly lowered the RPO-A down the shaft until it faced a tunnel. Then they pulled the trigger string to fire the thermobaric round down the tunnel. The resulting overpressure of the fuel-air round was devastating for anyone in the vicinity.

Tunnel Rats and Future Conflicts

Digging the enemy out of tunnels appears to be a constant factor in guerrilla warfare, and the combat engineer always seems to be the first soldier called for the task. Differentiating innocent civilians from combatants underground will prove to be a challenge for combat engineers. Since underground combat will not disappear from the future battlefield, we must prepare for the task. In the quest for high-technology answers to the complex problems of tomorrow's battlefields, there are few high-technology solutions for underground combat. After all the charges are blown, determined soldiers still must go underground to meet equally determined opponents. Specially trained soldiers will be better prepared to cope with future subterranean combat, which will remain the realm of raw courage, cunning and nerve.

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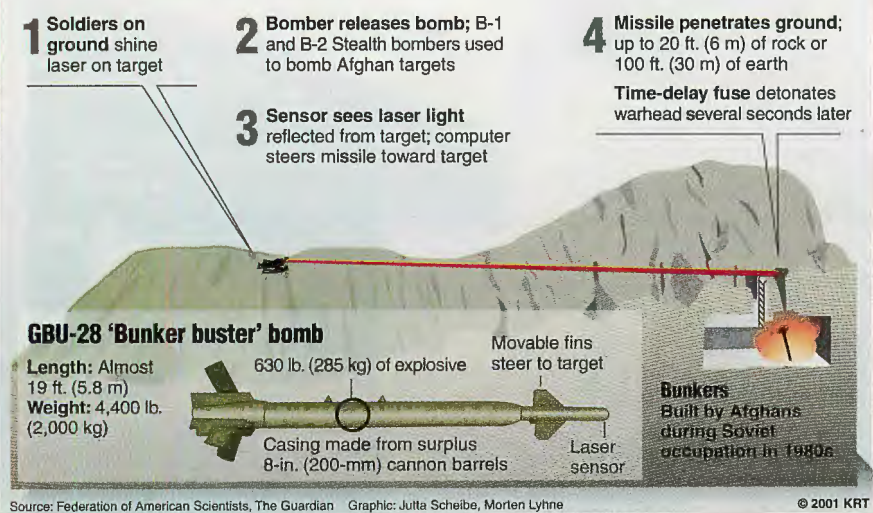
Mr. Ali Jalali, a journalist, has covered Afghanistan and Central Asia for the past 15 years. He served as a colonel in the Afghan army and was a member of the Afghan resistance during the Soviet-Afghan War. Mr. Jalali has completed the Infantry Officer's Advanced Course at Fort Benning, Georgia; the British Army Staff College at Camberley; the Soviet Frunze Academy in Moscow; and the Naval Post-Graduate School in Monterey, California.

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Attacking Afghan bunkers

U.S. bombers are using deep-penetrating bombs to attack the al-Qaida network and Taliban taking shelter in underground bunkers



TORTURE

THE BLACK ART

An Instrument Of National Policy: Algeria

BY DR. MARTIN BRASS

French General Aussaresses' book Services Speciaux Algerie 1955-57, published in May 2001, which detailed the use of torture and summary executions by the French military in the Algerian conflict, created an outrage in the French public and press. Although the use of torture was highly publicized during the conflict, the gruesome facts had not been so graphically detailed, nor had any answers been given to the disappearances or "suicides" of the chiefs of the FLN terrorist group. SOF conducted a lengthy interview with General Aussaresses in Paris, at which time he presented SOF with a copy of his book, reviewed many of the incidents, and expanded on his written work.

French General Paul Aussaresses, then captain, had been sent to Algeria in 1955 to liquidate the FLN, the Algerian liberation movement that had terrorized the French colonists (Pied Noir) and their sympathizers. Part one of this article presented his successful efforts in Phillipeville. Part two dealt with the much more complex operation in the city of Agiers, where the Pied Noir were concentrated. Although Aussaresses and his paratroopers had been successful in averting a devastating strike and capturing many of the FLN members, the two major chiefs, Ben M'Hidi and Boumendjel remained at large. Unless they were liquidated, Aussaresses mission would be considered a failure.

In demanding that the military "reestablish order in Algiers" Aussaresses wrote, the civil authorities had implicitly authorized summary executions. As he was fully aware of the questionable nature of the techniques of torture and summary executions that were utilized to force information from a suspect and the outrage that those means had elicited in French public opinion,

Aussaresses was careful to cover himself. Each time he sought reaffirmation from the French government, he was given the "green light".

At the end of January 1957, the paratroopers captured 12 members of the paramilitary group, Notre Dame d'Afrique, who had been involved in multiple terrorist attacks.

Marcel Bigeard, commander of the third regiment and in whose jurisdiction the revolutionaries had operated, unsure of how he was to proceed, informed Aussaresses that he had no guidance regarding the disposition of the prisoners. Aussaresses spoke to Roger Trinquier, the French chief of intelligence in Algiers, who in turn organized a meeting of the officers of the 3rd RPC.

Bigeard, extremely agitated, interrupted the session.

"So what am I supposed to do with these characters?"

"You must dispose of them," Trinquier said. "But not yet." Everyone understood.

General Jacques Massu, Aussaresses and Bigeard, wanting further confirmation from the highest government officials, requested that Massu pay a visit to Max Lejeune, the Secretary of State in the war office of the French government of President Guy Mollet. Massu informed Lejeune that he had apprehended a group of confirmed terrorists and asked whether he should send them to Justice or liquidate them.

"You remember the DC3 Air Atlas plane that transported Ben Bella, the chief of the FLN and his four companions on 22 October?" Lejeune asked.

Massu, who had been involved in the operation by order of the Mollet government, was quite familiar with the incident. The government, having been informed that Ben Bella and his accomplices were going to Morocco or

Tunisia, ordered a French fighter to shoot down the plane. The operation was canceled at the last moment only because the government learned that the flight crew was French. The government regretted the fact that Ben Bella, although under house arrest, was still alive.

Massu, hearing the message loud and clear, called for Aussaresses and Trinquier. "After being told the anecdote of Ben Bella," Aussaresses said, "I knew that I had 12 more men to execute the following night. I had no doubt that I was following the direct orders of Max Lejeune, the government of Guy Mollet, and the French republic."

The French decision makers decided it was impractical to process the FLN prisoners through the judicial system as it would take too long or they might escape with the help of other FLN members.

For example, one FLN operative arrested by the police and charged with several assassinations was incarcerated in the prison in Algiers. When presented to the judge, he told an incredible pile of lies. As the evidence was insufficient, he was released. Like others who had deceived the judicial system, he subsequently committed additional attacks. Few were convicted.

"No one ever demanded openly that I execute any one. That went without saying. As for torture, it was tolerated if not recommended," Aussaresses said. "Francois Mitterand had an emissary in Massu's office, Judge Jean Bigeard, who would cover up for us and who knew exactly what went on during the night. I always had excellent relations with him and never concealed anything.

It was rare that the prisoners succumbed during one interrogation but it did happen. One ordinary-looking, thin, middle aged Muslim was arrested after sufficient evidence was gathered to prove his culpability. He said he had TB, was on a medical disability pension and was incapable of manufacturing bombs despite documents produced that confirmed his status as an explosives technician during his military service.

Aussaresses interrogated him in a small, deserted hangar. Aussaresses sat in a chair a few inches from the culprit, demanding that he cooperate. The prisoner admitted to fabricating bombs after he was shown the evidence found at his home, but said that he was simply a technician, not involved in politics, and had nothing to do with carrying out the bombings. When Aussaresses demanded the names of his accomplices, he merely smiled in defiance. Aussaresses signaled his men to tie his hands behind his back and gag him. Water was poured over his head. Almost instantly, the man passed out.

Aussaresses sent for a doctor

with whom he was acquainted. "I need your help with a prisoner who has TB. Can you treat him? We were interrogating him and he appeared to faint." Aussaresses said.

"What do you mean you were interrogating him? He is dead. You are making a fool out of me." The doctor was outraged.

"Maybe." Aussaresses was unemotional. "But when I sent for you he was still alive." Aussaresses exploded when the doctor would not let up. "You want me to say that I killed him? You believe that this gives me pleasure?"

"No, but why did you come for me if he was already dead?"

Aussaresses' silence made it clear to the doctor realized he had been called simply because Aussaresses wanted to take the man to the hospital to get rid of the body.

The Saga of Ben M'Nidi

On 10 January 1957 two bombs exploded moments apart in two stadiums, leaving 11 dead and 50 injured.

Massu called for Trinquier and Aussaresses, once more accusing them of being responsible for the murders, as if they had originated the attack. "Bastards, you have screwed up! We are here to eliminate the FLN. When bombs go off, we are the



Contre la torture

Construire une mémoire commune avec les Algériens



Opération de ratissage dans le bled par l'armée française, vers 1956.

Il y a quarante-cinq ans, le 5 avril 1956, *Le Monde* publiait, sous le titre « France, ma patrie », une tribune libre de l'historien Henri-Irénée Marrou sur la torture en Algérie. « Je ne puis éviter de parler de Gestapo », écrivait-il, avant de conclure que cette pratique était « une honte pour le pays de la Résolution française et de l'affaire Dreyfus ».

Un an plus tard, le 13 mars 1957, Hubert Beuve-Méry affirmait, en ne se contentant pas d'ouvrir ses colonnes à ceux qui dénonçaient la torture ou de s'exprimer lui-même dans *Le Monde*, il écrivait personnellement aux responsables politiques pour les inviter à agir, demandant, par exemple, à Guy Mollet, alors président du conseil, d'adresser « des consignes très strictes » aux services de police et de renseignement et de prendre des sanctions en cas d'infraction grave.

me ce que savaient à l'époque ceux qui ne voulaient pas se voir la face. Il ne s'agit pas pour *Le Monde* de remuer de vieux souvenirs pour l'obscur plaisir de rouvrir des blessures mal cicatrisées ou dans le noir dessein de jeter le discrédit sur la République et son armée. Il ne s'agit pas non plus d'oublier les crimes qui furent commis par l'autre camp et qui justifiaient en retour, aux yeux des tortionnaires,

ones to blame.”

The attacks reinforced Aussaresses and Trinquier's determination and within a week at midnight 15 February Ben M'Hidi, head of the FLN in the Battle of Algiers was arrested in the area of operation of Bigeard's regiment. Bigeard greeted his prisoner as if he were an old friend. The two chatted all night like old comrades, downing pots of coffee. Bigeard strategy was to exploit the rivalry between Ben Bella, the former Chief of the FLN who was in prison and Ben M'Hidi. He taunted M'Hidi, treating him as if he were merely the provi-

Massu was annoyed. Bigeard was the one who kept Francois Mitterand informed and who acted as the justice department in Algiers, allowing the Paratroopers to act without having to pass through the public prosecutor's office. Bigeard had lost his professionalism, Aussaresses believed, because he had been thrown off guard by the arrest of the Chief.

“So what can we do about Ben M'Hidi?” he

The French decision makers decided it was impractical to process the FLN prisoners through the judicial system as it would take too long or they might escape with the help of other FLN members.

sional replacement of Ben Balla, the mastermind behind the FLN. The ploy worked. Ben M'Hidi's bruised ego prompted him to discuss details that he thought were insignificant, including the sources of supply and the organization of the FLN. His disclosures, which left no doubt that he was the current chief of the FLN, gave the Paratroopers the breakthrough they had been looking for.

Bigeard sought to continue to exploit the situation in the hopes that he would catch M'Hidi off guard and he would divulge even more information.

asked after Bigeard had played his game for several days.

“It doesn't matter to me,” Bigeard responded, “I wasn't the one who arrested him. Its none of my business.”

Bigeard wanted to prove to Aussaresses that he had the confidence of his prisoner and that M'Hidi was ready to collaborate. The orders, however, were to liquidate the chiefs of the FLN. Bigeard, Aussaresses wrote, had lost his marbles.

“And your arrest, what do you think of it?” M'Hidi had no response. Frustrated, Bigeard grabbed at straws. “You do not feel you have been betrayed?”

“By whom?”

“By your comrades of the CCE. They are Kabyles, you are an Arab.” Ben M'Hidi understood that Bigeard wanted to save his life. M' Hidi responded with a sad smile. “I was not betrayed, my colonel.”

Bigeard lost his nerve. “We had arrested the millionaire BenTchicou who had a large tobacco company in Algiers and served as a conduit for the FLN funds. When he had been arrested, he gave your address.” Bigeard did not give up. “Why don't you work for us — if you work for France don't you believe it would be better for your country.”

“No, I don't believe so.”

“Believe what you want, but I believe in a greater France.” Bigeard said, beginning to realize that he would not be able to save M'Hidi's life. Yet he refused to hand him over to the police, knowing that he would be tortured. The Paratroopers were convinced that M'Hidi was responsible for most of the attacks, and deserved to “die tenfold”.

March 3, Massu, Trinquier, and Aussaresses concluded that sending Ben M'Hidi to trial would have devastating international repercussions. There was not enough evidence to convict M'Hidi for the bombing. Although Ben M'Hidi had refused to betray his comrades, the Paratroopers found important infor-



mation in the papers discovered at his home. They needed time.

Massu asked Aussaresses his assessment of the situation. "I don't understand why he was treated better than the others. When it comes to terrorism, I do not care whether it is the chief or the private. We have executed plenty of poor devils that obeyed the orders of this type and we have delayed three weeks just to decide what to do."

Massu agreed "But M'Hidi is being watched. We cannot make him disappear just like that."

"He is not going to talk," Aussaresses said. "If there is a trial and he does not confess, he

acknowledgement of a demagogue, unsettled Aussaresses, making his task much more difficult. M'Hidi, knowing what awaited him, became extremely agitated.

Aussaresses was concerned the FLN would attempt to rescue M'Hidi.

"If we are attacked, kill him immediately, Aussaresses instructed his men.

They stopped at an isolated farm occupied by the commander of his regiment, some 20 kilometers south of Algiers, which had been provided to them by a Pied Noir. The Paras hung M'Hidi in a manner that looked like suicide. An ambulance was called. It was 2400 hours.

Aussaresses called Massu. "My general, Ben M'Hidi has committed suicide, His body is in the hospital. I will give you the report in the morning.

The Paras hung M'Hidi in a manner that looked like suicide. An ambulance was called. Aussaresses called Massu. "My general, Ben M'Hidi has committed suicide, I will give you the report in the morning.

may be acquitted and all of the FLN with him. Let me take care of it before he somehow manages to escape."

"OK. Take care of it. Ill cover for you." Aussaresses knew then that he had the "green light" from the government. Aussaresses took over custody of Ben M'Hidi the following night. Bigeard, expecting that Aussaresses would take charge of his prisoner, was absent. Aussaresses and 12 of his men, "armed to the teeth" arrived in the two jeeps and the Dodge.

"Present arms!" The team presented arms at the command of the captain as M'Hidi exited the building, rending their last honors in homage to Bigeard and his new friend. The spectacular gesture, made in

Bigeard, first to read the report, was impressed with the details. "Very good. Smooth."

"Smooth" did not last very long.

A few days later, Massu called Aussaresses to his office. "I'm in deep shit" I must present myself before the chief prosecutor.

"He dared call you?"

"Yes, for the suicide of Ben M'Hidi."

"That's extremely rude. In your position you should not defer to such summons. I will go and represent you." Aussaresses went to face the magistrate. "I represent General Massu. I am familiar with the circumstances of Ben M'Hidi's death. The questioning should be directed at me."

The magistrate was in a rage. "Tell me your report."

"There are allegations only. What proof do you have?"

"Our good faith, that of the military."

Aussaresses saluted, snapped his heels and left. Nothing more was heard from the prosecutor.

The death of Ben M'Hidi dealt a fatal blow to the FLN. The attacks diminished and most of the rebels faded away.

Master Boumendjel

A young French couple and their baby were slaughtered south of Algiers. Before the murderers were executed, they confessed that the assassinations were orchestrated and financed by a brilliant Algerian lawyer, Ali Boumendjel. He, like other leaders of the FLN was exasperated by the popularity of the gangster Ali la Point who was branded Robin Hood of Algeria and constantly managed to evade the French patrol by dressing like a woman. Boumendjel launched such a spectacular action in the hopes of becoming a legend, and to change the face of the terrorist into that of a worldly,



Dr. Martin Brass

In a recent Paris interview, R. K. Brown discusses the tactical use of torture with retired four-star French General Paul Aussaresses. His tell-all book became a best seller, as it rattled French society to its foundations.

intellectual image.

Although Boumendjel was known to be a sympathizer of the FLN, he had been untouchable as he was a government official. His arrest, made several days before that of Ben M'Hidi, created a large uproar. Mr. Boumendjel's brother, also a lawyer, alerted the French public. After one suicide attempt that landed him in the hospital, Boumendjel cooperated. He admitted to having furnished his personal pistol for the attack on the French couple. He described the role he played in the organizing the FLN of Algiers, and his position as minister of foreign affairs between the FLN and the countries that supported them.

It took a week to come up with a plan to deal with such a high profile prisoner. Obviously, because of his notoriety, the least risky solution was to transfer him to Justice. But the

Trinquier shared his point of view. Autopsies showed that he had died from being crushed and that his body showed no trace of violence.

In spring *Le Monde* ran a story titled "The Battle of Algiers, a Battle Won." "Yes, the FLN were defeated in Algiers. That we knew, simply because their attacks had ceased and arrests were rare." Aussaresses said. "But the war was not over. The arms dealers, money suppliers and the Algerian Communist party posed further threats."

Aussaresses had intercepted a letter written in French by a fellaghas chief: "My dear brother, I am obliged to quit the Casbah because for the moment, Massu has won."

Aussaresses told Massu, "my General, you told me that Master Boumendjel could not escape. He cannot now since he committed suicide." Massu grunted his characteristic nervous grunt and left.

only evidence that they had was that he had provided his personal gun. He had confessed to complicity in the assassination, but there was no doubt that in front of a judge he would retract his statement and be free after his brother made a few phone calls.

A decision had to be made. Aussaresses, Trinquier and Massu met. "In my eyes, in spite of his impressive position, the lawyer was nothing but revolting assassin like the rest that had passed through the executioner's hands." Aussaresses said. Loosing patience, he got up from his meeting with Massu.

"Understand, I will not allow him to escape." Massu told Aussaresses. Aussaresses went to the building where Boumendjel was detained in a cell was on the first floor.

"Massu would be furious if Boumendjel escaped," Aussaresses told his men. "We can not let him leave here alive. The best plan is to escort him to the next building, by but not through the first floor. That is too obvious. You search your prisoner and transfer him to the next building by way of the pedestrian bridge that joins the two buildings. I will wait here until you finish.

In a few minutes, Aussaresses' lieutenant returned, out of breath, to announce that Boumendjel had fallen. Before reaching the bridge, he had been whacked in the back of the head by an axe handle.

Aussaresses told Massu, "my General, you told me that Master Boumendjel could not escape. He cannot now since he committed suicide." Aussaresses said.

Massu grunted his characteristic nervous grunt and left.

The death of Boumendjel received incredible publicity, including loudly pronounced inquests and debates in the Assembly. The "suicide" deceived no one, and was used as propaganda for the FLN and their sympathizers. The autopsies revealed that Boumendjel was crushed in his fall and that his body showed no trace of violence. Aussaresses knew that the press campaign by the intelligentsia was directed against the military, but "I saw no other alternative in crushing the FLN."

The Algerian Communist Party

A plan was devised to liquidate Ben Bella and his comrades, who although in prison, were sure to play a decisive role if the FLN regained strength. After their arrest, Ben Bella and his companions had been sent to France for reasons of security. Aussaresses requested that he and his men guard the grounds where Ben Bella and his comrades were being held. Permission was given, although reluctantly. A "gas accident" blew up the buildings that had served as a provisional prison.

Next the financiers and money handlers needed to be dealt with. "Money," Aussaresses wrote, "is the nerve of war, as it provides for the flow of arms." Most of the financing originated in France, where the FLN intimidated Algerian workers and merchants. Those that refused to pay had their throat cuts or were shot with the benediction of French FLN sympathizers. Money-filled suitcases passed through the ticket handlers, then the suitcases disappeared in passage. No one in Paris paid attention except one special force composed of Algerian police charged to act with brutality against the FLN. The money was used to purchase arms in Belgium, Switzerland or Czechoslovakia

The operation against the suitcase handlers went smoothly. Intelligence efforts identified a dozen racketeers. He gave the information to Trinquier and they were located and shot.

The French effort was set back with a series of FLN attacks Monday 3 June 1957, against three trolleybus stations, which retarded the accomplishment of the projects. Eight dead, including

Continued on page 79

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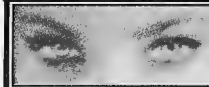
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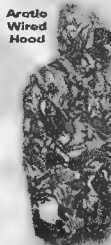
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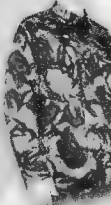
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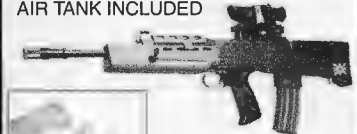


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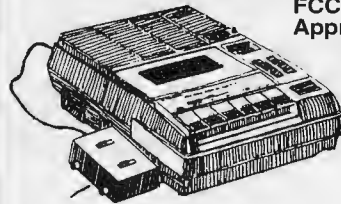
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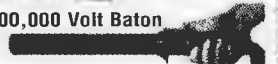
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The Sequential War

BY JACK WHEELER

Blindingly obvious yet still politically incorrect to point out, America and Western Civilization are not engaged in a War on Terrorism. It is rather a War on Muslim Terrorism that we are conducting. We are not at war with every group of terrorists in the world. We are not at war, for example, with Irish terrorists, Basque terrorists, Tamil terrorists, or Hutu terrorists. Instead, America is at war with one specific, identifiable species of terrorism: Muslim terrorism. The only terrorists America is at war with are Muslim terrorists.

Every single individual who planned and participated in The Atrocity of September 11, every single individual on President Bush's 22 Most Wanted List are Muslims, adherents to the religion of Islam. Does this mean that America and Western Civilization are at war with all Muslims, at war with Islam? No. It means that there is a particular pathology confined to believers in Islam, a moral disease within the body of the world Muslim community which is especially acute in Arab Muslims, and it is this with which America is now at war.

It is the moral disease that Nazism, Communism, and Muslim Terrorism all have in common: criminally pathological envy. Yet we do not need to figure out how to cure Muslim Terrorists of their envy of the West, any more than we needed to cure Nazis of their envy of the Jews or Communists of their envy of the bourgeois. We only need to figure out — as we did with Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union — how to defeat them. What such a strategy of victory over Muslim Terrorism requires is a sequential war.

This is a war fought in a particular sequence of stages, securing success in one before proceeding to the next. Victory in the War on Muslim Terrorism will require sequential success in four stages.

Stage One: Afghanistan. Success here means the Taliban out of power and OBL (Osama bin Laden) dead. In the aftermath, it is not our job to nation-rebuild Afghanistan, which must be understood is a country that cannot be governed and cannot be ruled. Indeed, it is not clear why there should be an Afghanistan at all, given that it is a 19th century artifact as a buffer between the Russian and British Empires. Perhaps the best solution would be to let the place break apart, with the Tajik area going to Tajikistan, the Uzbek area going to Uzbekistan, and south of the Hindu Kush the de-Talibanized Pushtuns getting their area of regional autonomy within an expanded Pakistan. In exchange, Pakistan would have to achieve a genuine peace with India over Kashmir, shut down the Jihadist medressahs (schools of Islamic fanaticism), and destroy the poppy fields of southern Afghanistan which supply 60% of the world's heroin.

Stage Two: Iraq. Success here means Saddam Hussein dead. The world will not be safe until he is. No massive ground troop invasion is necessary, just 5,000-pound bunker

busters dropped on his presidential palaces or sleeping quarters (identified with Mossad or INC — Iraq National Congress resistance — intel) until we get him or his own people who can't take it any more do. Again, we shouldn't try in the aftermath to pick up the pieces. Iraq is a make-believe country, an artificial construct of the British composed of three former provinces of the Ottoman Empire after WWI. Mosul in the north, with its Kirkuk oilfields, should be given to Turkey, on the condition that Ankara grant regional autonomy to the Kurds and the Kurds make peace with Ankara. Basra in the south, with its Shi'ite Arab (non-Sunni, non-Persian) population should be independent. Baghdad in the middle can sink or swim — reinvent itself as a peaceful Islamic trading center plugged into the global economy, or become another abandoned ruin like Babylon or Nineveh.

Stage Three: Iran. Success here means the replacement of the current mullah regime with a new pro-West government. This will not be easy nor quick. The mullahs know they are hated, particularly by the young (over 50% of Iran's 60 million are under 25); their regime is fragile and ripe for destabilization. Yet Iran or Persia is a real country, having been in existence for 2,500 years; it is not going to fall apart. The solution here is not military, as in the previous two stages. It lies in a stick/carrot combination of covert activity accelerating public anti-mullah protests and other forms of regime destabilization, with diplomatic persuasion for the mullahs to cease their support of Hezbollah and other terrorist movements, and let go of their stranglehold on democratic elections. Iranian voters have shown their clear preference for pro-freedom anti-mullah candidates. If an actual democracy can be established in Iran, free of mullah control, it would be a lynchpin shifting the entire dynamics of the Muslim world away from Jihadist radicalism, and towards a rapprochement with the West. As a consequence, Iran would flourish, with all the Caspian land-locked oil having sea access via its pipelines. A flourishing Democratic Iran sets the stage for:

Stage Four: Saudi Arabia. Here we come to the crux of the matter. An interwoven nest of pestilential problems — lack of peace between Israel and its neighbors, Arab countries as fascist poverty pits, Muslim Terrorism — has been built through desperate and ceaseless efforts to continue the corrupt rule of the Saudi Royal Family. We advocate democracy everywhere from Serbia to Burma, yet never for the Arabs — for talk of Arab Democracy leads to the great unmentionable, Saudi Democracy. As long as the world insists on remaining hostage to Saudi oil, these problems will not end. Thus success here means securing other major supplies of oil while launching a full effort to democratize the Arab world, converting thereby Saudi Arabia into a

Continued on page 79

the others' logistics."

On the one hand, the Mujahideen hit hard at the country's crucial road network that brought supplies to the hundreds of garrisons throughout the land. For their part, Moscow's attacks on guerrilla logistics structures was two-fold: during the first five years they sought to eliminate all Muj support in the countryside. They bombed granaries and rural villages, destroyed crops and irrigation systems, mined pastures and fields, eliminated herds and launched sweeps through outlying areas.

Believing the Mao dictum that the guerrilla lives in the population like a fish in the water, the Soviets decided to kill the fish by draining off the water, which led to Afghanistan becoming a nation of refugees. That, in turn, caused the insurgents to bring everything they needed to fight the war into the country from outside and establish logistics bases.

Consequently, the fight from 1985 on was to find and destroy these bases. But by then the CIA was involved and was supplying the rag-tag army with superior firepower including Stinger ground-to-air missiles that slowly, inexorably, neutralized the Soviet air effort.

For those who are into this sort of thing, there are parts of the book that are mesmerizing with anecdotes on the nature of warfare in that rugged land. There is also evidence of collusion between the rebels and disgruntled Soviet conscripts — one offering hashish, the other weapons, ammunition, batteries and military equipment. It hardly mattered, it seemed, that the hardware sold to the muj would eventually be turned against their own people.

Elsewhere, Grau makes the point — several times, in fact — that some of the kids still at school would attend classes in the day and fight for the cause after dark. One veteran told him: "I used my student identification to move freely around the city to support the mujahideen." Another schoolboy would deliver messages for the rebels: he was often tasked with contacting DRA soldiers who might have tactical information or possibly agree to cooperate with the resistance.

There were many DRA officers who collaborated with the enemy. They had a senior man in the DRA 8th Infantry Division garrisoned in Kabul who provided good intelligence for years.

Eventually he decided he'd had enough and asked to come across to the cause. As a final act of rebellion, the rebels arranged a little party at the officer's home, to which the dissident invited three senior Soviets, including a political commissar.

It was a grand event at which the three Europeans drank themselves into a stupor. They were then bundled into their own army wagon and driven to the village of Qala-e Qazi, southwest of Kabul. The rebel group afterwards returned to the defector's home, loaded up his family and belongings and drove the lot into Pakistan.

It's instructive what the rebels did to the three prisoners. To the majority of the guerrillas, the Geneva Convention might have been a rock group. Grau cites some horrific exam-

Most times the guerrillas would hit and run for the hills, with the Soviets unable (or more often than not, unwilling) to follow up. Curiously, I'd seen exactly that same lack of initiative while covering Portugal's wars in Africa in the Seventies.

Fight Them In The Streets

Gräu discloses an astonishing amount of rebel military activity inside Kabul, almost from the start of the invasion.

In one attack, a 76-man insurgent group laid seven remote-control (*shartaki*) mines in a suburb and waited for a convoy of military vehicles from Darulaman to arrive. They destroyed or damaged a BMP as well as three trucks, though Grau questions the need for such a top-heavy security force to



SOF Files

Shortly before the Taliban became World Enemy No. 1, its agents assassinated commander Massoud, center, while posing as journalists. Massoud was long a successful commander in the anti-Soviet wars, and later against the oppressive Taliban.

ples of their brutality.

When these three Soviet officers refused to cooperate, already trussed and gagged, they were buried alive. As he explains, to shoot them might have been the easier option but the sounds of gunshots might have drawn attention from nearby government security outposts.

The book deals in some depth with the weapons carried by the guerrillas. Grau makes an issue of trying to indicate exactly what was used on specific attacks. What comes across rather sharply is that until America came to the rescue, the rebels were hard stretched to find enough hardware with which to fight. In the chapter headed Afshar Ambush, for example, a mujahideen squad lay in ambush all day long with only four AK-47s and an anti-tank grenade-launcher between them.

secure the area. The operation also underscores lax Soviet security measures, which are apparent often enough in these pages.

Moscow also didn't do what it could to stop the movement of weapons into Afghanistan. As the war progressed, the rebels would haul supplies across country in their trucks and sometimes in daylight, particularly in the western regions near the Iranian frontier. If spotted by patrolling helicopters, they would try to seek cover, but that didn't happen as often as one might have thought.

Other times they would move their stuff by mule, donkey, horse, camel and human porter. And while most warlords had their own transport, the bulk of Mujahideen supplies were hauled by contracted teamsters and mule skinner. Costs were high, with taxes or

tariffs being levied — often 10% of the value of the goods — to pass through area controlled by another tribe or faction. A group with a reputation for getting themselves ambushed would be hard put to find willing teamsters.

A point of interest here is that the Americans at one stage tried to introduce Missouri mules to the war. But these required more fodder, carried less and died more quickly than the native animals, which, like their masters were as tough as old boots.

Conditions in towns that were contested were a very different proposition from fighting in outlying areas.

“Mujahideen success in the urban areas was due primarily to support of the population and the lack of DRA/Soviet control outside the areas that they physically controlled. The

to have been inflated. What does emerge is that taken together, he manages to paint a picture of a struggle from which there are many valuable lessons.

Take the attack on the KHAD headquarters in Kabul. One of the rebels involved explains how he and his men had an underground base a couple of miles from the western edge of Kabul where they would hide their weapons in the city’s sewer pipes and other out-of-the-way hidden spots.

Throughout the war the Soviets were never able to completely control Kandahar and Herat, even though they devoted a lot of resources to finding and eliminating the urban fighter. Moscow finally dealt with the Herat malcontents by reducing three-quarters of the city into rubble, much as they did more recently with Grozny, the Chechen capi-

habitually use the same positions. By the same token, the Soviets seemed to be unaware of these shortcomings, which leveled the field a little.

There were few rebel doctors, though established Afghan medical personnel often treated their compatriot’s war casualties at great personal risk. Some Muj groups might have been lucky to have had a medic who finished eight months or a year at some institution in Pakistan or elsewhere, but most fighting groups were pleased if the medic with them had done six-weeks.

There were some French doctors who worked inside the country, but the majority of foreign aid workers remained on the Pakistani border and waited for casualties to be brought across the mountains. Obviously, most seriously wounded Mujahideen died before they could be treated.

The overall Mujahideen air defense posture, too, was weak. Grau reckons that with the introduction of Stingers, Moscow countered that by changing its tactics, though clearly, the debate goes on. Ideally the rebels liked to draw attacking Su-25s, Mi-24s and Mi-8s into the mountains where they could target them from above, or out of caves or from behind rock overhangs. The Mujahideen eventually became masters of defensive tactics and, no doubt, some of our pilots will be experiencing some of this as the present situation escalates.

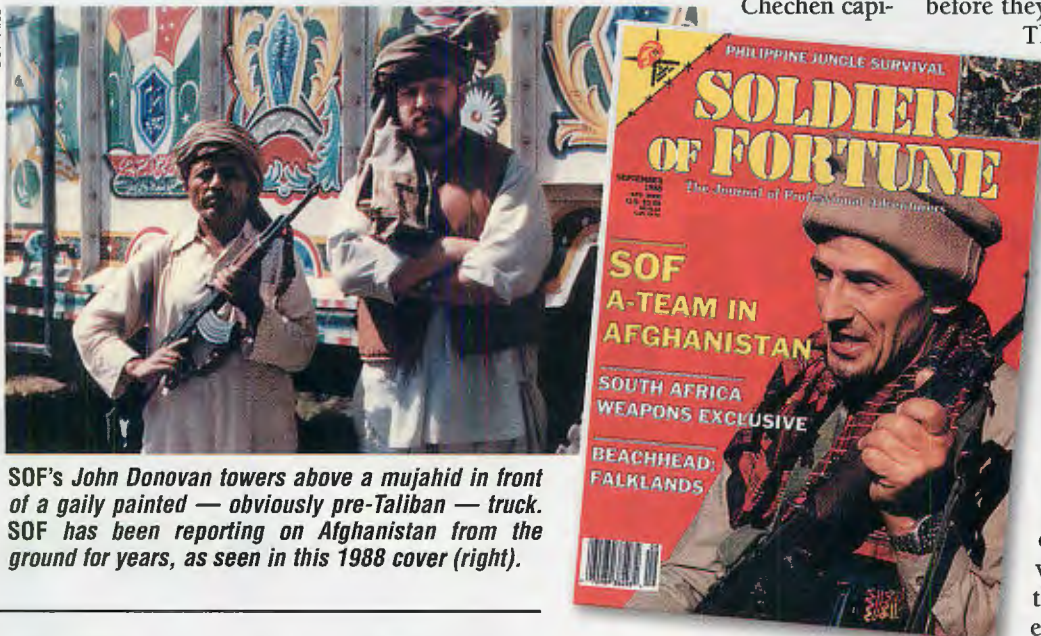
Allah’s warriors also learned to quickly recognize Soviet landing pads and they would mine them determinedly. In the final reckoning, a large percentage of Muj aircraft kills were from mortar and multiple rocket launcher attacks on airfields.

It took a while, but the rebels did eventually learn the value of building sturdy, redundant, camouflaged bunkers and fighting positions that ensured survivability.

(*The Other Side of the Mountain* will be available from ISBS, 5804 N.E. Hassalo St., Portland, OR 97213-3644; phone: 800-944-6190; website: <http://www.frankcass.com>.)

SOF’s contributing editor for Africa, Al J. Venter has filed many stories from Central and S.W. Asia. ✕

SOF Files



SOF’s John Donovan towers above a mujahid in front of a gaily painted — obviously pre-Taliban — truck. SOF has been reporting on Afghanistan from the ground for years, as seen in this 1988 cover (right).

cities were under nighttime curfew, but the patrols enforcing them could hardly move safely off the main roads. The (rebels) had great freedom of action outside the main thoroughfares and in the suburbs,” writes Grau.

Some of the attacks would involve hundreds of combatants. In one attack on what is termed “The Governor’s House,” a muj group of about 200 men armed with a 76mm mountain gun, five 82mm mortars, two 82mm recoilless rifles, 20 RPG-7s, Goryunov heavy machine guns and AKs fought for 12 days after the attacking force became encircled. In the end they claimed to have destroyed about a dozen enemy vehicles for the loss of 18 of their own.

As with most things Asian, not everything could be verified and some of the figures, even Grau admits, appear

tal.

Little Training, Less Medicine

The book also highlights both the inadequacy of mujahideen training and a patent lack of elementary medical care, not that hygiene is top of the list on any mujahideen’s priorities. Training to standard too, was a constant problem for rebel commanders with the best being offered in camps in Pakistan or in mountain bases.

Grau: “Unless urban guerrillas were sent out for training, they had little live-fire experience other than actual combat. Also, if they were in their own areas, they tended to ignore local security and could be surprised.”

With some exceptions, they lacked imagination in their selection of ambush and shelling sites and would



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With the purchase of Heckler & Koch (H&K) by Royal Ordnance in 1991, the development of a new, economical 5.56x45mm rifle was begun. After initial prototyping, the result was the Gewehr G36. At first clouded in secrecy, the G36 entered a fierce race with the Steyr AUG to replace the G3 rifle for the Bundeswehr’s portion of the European Rapid Reaction Force. It was a race the G36 would win.

Differing from H&K’s traditional roller-locked, delayed blowback mechanism, the G36 uses a more conventional multi-lugged rotating bolt similar to that of the M16. Consisting of a two-piece short-stroke gas piston, the system is reminiscent of the AR-18, WWII German G43 and the earlier Soviet Tokarev.

Instead of the stamped sheet metal components used in traditional H&K weapons, the G36 makes extensive use of carbon fiber reinforced polymer. Major components made of this material include the lower receiver, handguard, folding buttstock, magazine well, carrying handle and magazine. The result is a relatively lightweight weapon that is impervious to most elements.

Although the G36 is different from former H&K weapons, H&K’s modular design has been retained. Without the need for tools, most components of the

G36 can be quickly removed and replaced by pushing out an assembly pin. Trigger groups can be changed in the field and the magazine well can be substituted with one that will accept the M16 (NATO) magazine. Made of semi-transparent plastic, the G36’s standard 10- and 30-round magazine can be snapped on to the side of another magazine. A 100-round dual drum magazine is also available, and the rifle uses an AK style magazine release.

In the G36’s steel bolt carrier is an M16 style bolt and extractor with a typical plunger-type ejector. In the bolt carrier is a number of tungsten disks that serve to prevent bounce. A reciprocating cocking handle is another feature that is a departure for H&K. Located at the front of the of the carrier, this handle is rotated 90 degrees left or right to retract the bolt group. Releasing the handle allows the assembly to return forward. Pushing the cocking handle inward allows it to remain in a locking détente where it can be used as a forward assist. At the rear of the ejection port is an M16 style case deflector that also serves to retain the stock in the folded position.

To lock back the bolt after the last shot has been fired is an automatic bolt hold-open device that can be quickly disconnected in the field, if desired. An ambidextrous manual bolt hold-open button is located inside the front of the trigger guard, but there is no exterior bolt release. Instead, this

is done by pulling back and releasing the bolt with either a loaded magazine, or with the magazine removed. A simple spanner wrench is all that is required for changing a barrel, and rifling twists of 1-in-7 inches or 1-in-9 inches are offered.

Besides housing the standard 1.5X scope, a detachable carrying handle protects the cocking handle. With the 1.5X scope the Hensoldt NSA 80 II Passive Night Vision Module can be attached to the carrying handle where the device uses a periscope design to connect in front of the standard optical sight through a special opening in the handle. This allows the shooter to use the same aim in low light. Optional is a carrying handle with a 3.5X scope with a 6-mil reticle with an electronic red dot sight above it.

In addition to the standard rifle, the G36 and the Light Support Weapon (LSW) is the G36K Carbine with its shorter barrel and forend, and the 9 inch barrel G36 Compact, both of which will accept mission specific accessories including the HK 40mm grenade launcher and Picatinny rail mounts such as those on the Rail Adapter System (RAS) made for H&K by Knight’s Armament Company. In addition to the standard 18.9 inch and 12.5 inch barrels, a special 15.4 inch Close Quarter Battle (CQB) barrel will fit the G36 and G36K. All G36 models use the folding stock and accept a 100-round dual drum magazine.



Here the SL8-1 has the KMC Short Picatinny Rail installed along with KMC’s 600 Meter Folding Sights and the Aimpoint Comp ML. (inset) As issued, the SL8-1 comes with an extended Picatinny rail with iron sights and a 3-way adjustable cheekpiece. Its thumbhole stock and 10-shot magazine are unique.

A "Civilian" Version

Because of increasing restrictive anti-gun laws in the U.S., not even law enforcement officers can purchase a G36, but any law abiding person can own its civilian counterpart, the SL8-1. This semi-automatic only version of the G36 is designed as the long-range precision rifle version of the G36 family, and operates just like its predecessor. The SL8-1 even uses some of the same parts as its selective fire counterpart, but not the folding stock. Instead, the SL8-1 has a gray thumbhole type fixed stock and comes with a special magazine well that accepts an excellent 10-shot single column magazine.

Unlike the selective fire G36 variants, the SL8-1 comes with a heavy match barrel, and could be described as the long range precision rifle of the family. Enhancing this capability is the rifle's spacer adjustable butt and its comb that has three heights to accommodate various sight systems.

Although the trigger group is not of the quick-change type, it is otherwise nearly identical to its military semi-automatic counterpart as is the selector. The trigger is very good with just a tiny amount of creep. The unique in-line 10-shot magazine is the best I have ever seen, and can almost be described as "jam proof." Field stripping is utter-



Offhand hits were quick and easy with the SL8-1 out to 100 yards and beyond.

ly simple and is accomplished without any tools, but a cartridge.

After I recently tested the G36 family for SOF, H&K shipped me an SL8-1 for evaluation. The rifle came with several accessories including a G36 handguard assembly with bipod, the removable carrying handle with its 1.5X optical sight and a KMC RAS component with its three integral Picatinny rails.

Along with the standard Picatinny

rail with its iron sight system, I installed the G35 bipod/handguard. After some initial test firing I then removed both of these parts and replaced them with the KMC RAS and Kimber's new Mepro Light Reflex Sight with its bright amber dot, and later an Aimpoint Comp ML red dot sight. However, there was no way to satisfactorily mount a scope of higher magnification, so I contacted Knight's Mfg. Co. and ordered its G36 (SL8-1) Long Scope Base (LSB) rail system with back-up flip-up 600-yard rear sight and fold-down front sight. Dave Lutz, of KMC, shipped me this rail equipped with KMC's Special Low Ring Set mounted with a Leupold 1.75-6X scope.

Made of tough aircraft quality 7075-T6 alloy, KMC's LSB consists of an M1913 Picatinny rail that mounts rigidly to the top of the receiver via through-bolts and a dovetail. This mount together with KMC's G36 RAS is the slick setup for the SL8-1 and provided me with the best of both worlds in universal mounting systems.

Night Vision

While I was testing the SL8-1, I had on loan the Army's new AN-PVS17 and AN-PVS18 (monocular) Night Vision Devices (NVD) from Litton Electro Optics. On the KMC LSB I mounted the AN-PVS18 monocular behind an Aimpoint Comp M red dot sight, both using A.R.M.S. Throw Lever mounts from Precision Reflex and Mounting

.223 CARTRIDGE ACCURACY CHART

Load	Velocity	Small Group	Large Group	Average
Black Hills 69 gr. JHP	2933 fps	1.84"	2.01"	1.91"
Hornady 75 gr. JHP	2667 fps	1.62"	1.73"	1.68"
Winchester 50 gr. S.T.	3398 fps	1.81"	2.11"	1.96"
Wolf 55 gr. FMJ	3259 fps	1.78"	1.90"	1.85"

Five 5-shot Bench Rest 100-Yard Groups Using ProCrono LE. Elev: 7000', Temp: 84°, Humid: 78%



The semi-automatic SL8-1 (below) is seen with its selective fire G36 counterpart.

Solutions Plus. These quick detachable mounts fit the KMC RAS and LSB to perfection, and with this combo I could turn night into high noon with the red dot seen as a bright green dot reticle through the NVD.

However, for true long range precision shooting at night, the AN-PVS17 proved to be the way to go. With its red cross reticle, this 2.25X NVD more than cuts the actual range in half, and through it we could clearly see details of mountains some 10 miles away in what was otherwise pitch dark. Hits were easily made at any distance we could find an informal target out to about 300 yards. Relatively small for what it does, the new AN-PVS17 is the latest and perhaps the greatest 3rd Gen. NVD available. The version made for the USMC is 4.5X. Litton Night Vision Devices are marketed by Excalibur Electro Optics, Inc.

New SureFire G36 Millennium 500A Light

To enhance all shooting at night, I mounted a SureFire M3 Tactical Weapon Light on the RAS with its remote pressure switch on a KMC vertical foregrip. For most, using this grip was the favorite offhand configuration. However, just before press time, I received a brand new pre-production sample Millennium 500A Tactical Weapon Light from SureFire. Molded integral with a tough new synthetic G36 forend, this light/handguard mounts on the SL8-1's receiver exactly like the factory of standard G36 forend. With this system all one has to do is turn the enabling switch on and the unit can be operated by its pressure



Using a special magazine well, the SL8-1 will accept only its unique 10-shot in-line magazine.

H&K SL8-1 SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:	5.56x45mm (.223 Remington).
Muzzle Velocity:	3200 fps.
Operation:	Gas piston with rotating bolt.
Type of Fire:	Semi-automatic only.
Overall Length:	38.6".
Barrel Length:	20.8".
Rifling Twist:	6 grooves, 1-in-7 inch RHT.
Weight:	(rifle alone) 8.6 lbs.
Feed Device:	10-shot box magazine.
Sights:	Adjustable open sights with 1.5X optical standard or dual 3.5X optical and day/night red dot optional plus night vision.
Stock:	Gray synthetic.
Finish:	Military matte black.



switch, or in a constant on mode. One of the best tactical weapon lights available, the 500A Millennium will also be available in a shortened version for the G36K as you read this, and a G36C version is also planned.

Shots Fired

Just as is the case with the rest of the members of the G36 family, the operation of the SL8-1 is what one would expect from H&K, totally smooth and 100% reliable. Firing the rifle informally with the factory 1.5X optic proved pleasurable with offhand hits easily obtainable out to 200 yards and beyond on small boulders and miscellaneous steel targets. The one complaint heard was of the thumbhole stock that does not give adequate room for the selector to be easily operated by the thumb. However, being ambidextrous, the selector can be operated by the trigger finger with no problem, which isn't a bad idea.

From the bench, the standard Q.D. plastic handguard is so flexible that it can contact the barrel if one is not careful, so for precision shooting we substituted the KMC RAS fore end which is totally rigid. In addition, I replaced the 6X Leupold scope on the KMC LSB with my Bausch & Lomb 10X Police Tactical scope in order to wring out the best accuracy from the rifle.

In spite of our seemingly continuous Colorado wind, the SL8-1 produced some fairly respectable 5-shot groups at 100 yards from the bench with 4 shots often going into a cluster well under minute of angle (MOA). All in all, the SL8-1 should be fully suitable for competition, varmint hunting or law enforcement duty. Since the SL8-1's

barrel is easily changed, I would like to see a carbine version. If you are looking for a .223 caliber special purpose rifle that is truly modular, be sure to check out the SL8-1 family. ✕

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BLACK HAWK DOWN

Off Camera: Ensuring Authenticity

BY JIM MORRIS

Photos Courtesy Revolution Studios and Columbia Pictures/Sidney Baldwin

We're in a world that couldn't be farther from Somalia, an atmosphere that couldn't be farther from combat. We're sitting in a pleasant seaside restaurant in a California beach town, a trendy place. On the sand between us and the ocean surfers are waxing their boards. Off shore more of them are getting ready to paddle as the water begins to swell and spill over.

We're talking about a movie set in a land of revolution, famine and clitorectomies, *Black Hawk Down*. We're talking about Mogadishu.

In 1993, when 18 young American fighting men, mostly Rangers,



Rangers fast-roping into hell. Black Hawk Down, to be released nationwide on 18 January 02, is one of the most realistic — and moving — combat saga ever to emblazon the screen.

were killed in the streets of Mogadishu everything I read in the civilian press played it for pathos. In story after story you got the impression that these young men were hapless boobs caught in the crossfire. You'd have thought they were sorority girls in a train wreck.

SOF busted its ass to get a story out early, but a monthly magazine usually works three months ahead. Even on hyperdrive it took the mag six weeks to get Mogadishu on the newsstands. It was only then that I learned that the Rangers, and Delta, the 160th SOAR, and some other guys we don't get to talk about killed somewhere between 600 and a thousand armed and shooting Somali fighters. So once again, not unlike the Tet Offensive, the American press had shat in the face of the people who fight and sometimes die to preserve their right to do so.

It pissed me off then and it pisses me off now. I think the guys on that operation have grounds for a class action libel suit.

Sitting across from me is the man who, perhaps more than anyone else, has redressed that grievance, Harry Humphries, the Military Technical Advisor, and Associate Producer.

The technical advisor's credit normally comes pretty far down on the scroll. However, it is he who is responsible for whether the movie does honor to the profession of arms or is just a hideous



AH/MH-6 Little Birds inbound (in the movie), on-the-prowl for warlords and their armed minions. These choppers, along with the MH-60 Black Hawks, were flown to Morocco from CONUS aboard C-5 transport.

BLACK HAWK DOWN

A REVOLUTION STUDIOS/COLUMBIA
PICTURES ACTION-ADVENTURE

PRODUCED BY JERRY BRUCKHEIMER

DIRECTED AND PRODUCED BY RIDLEY SCOTT

STELLAR ENSEMBLE CAST INCLUDES JOSH
HARTNETT, ERIC BANA, JASON ISAACS, EWAN
MCGREGOR, TOM SIZEMORE AND SAM SHEPARD

From acclaimed director Ridley Scott and renowned producer Jerry Bruckheimer, based on actual events, Black Hawk Down is the heroic account of a group of elite U.S. soldiers sent into Mogadishu, Somalia in 1993 as part of a U.N. peacekeeping operation. Their mission: to capture several top lieutenants of the Somali warlord, Mohamed Farrah Aidid, as part of a strategy to quell the civil war and famine that is ravaging the country.

Young Rangers and veteran Delta Force soldiers fight side by side against overwhelming odds. For 18 harrowing hours, they remain trapped and wounded in the most hostile district of Mogadishu until a rescue convoy can be mounted to retrieve them. Outnumbered and surrounded, tensions flare, friends are lost, alliances are formed and soldiers learn the true nature of war and heroism. ...

mishmash of bullshit. And when a soldier sees a war movie that's pretty much is all he cares about.

Harry's a stocky guy, a little above medium height, and in terrific shape. He has a shock of gray hair, slightly longer than a crewcut, and a close-cropped goatee and moustache. He has clear friendly eyes and a smile that would be charming except for that twisty quality around the edges that comes from having seen a friend's face turn to red goo.

We exchange a few pleasantries, to establish a mutual respect for each other's service. Harry was a SEAL in

Vietnam, first with the Teams, then with the Phoenix Program as a PRU advisor. I remark that SpecOps guys are more like each other than they are like other members of their respective services.

"Same bones, different face," says Harry.

We talked for awhile about how the book compares to the movie. I've mixed feelings about the book. Everybody I know thinks it's terrific. It's author [Mark Bowden] lost my respect when he badmouthed the Vietnam-era Rangers at a Ranger convention, a breach of manners that I

find almost unthinkable. Furthermore, I don't think the book is all that goddamn well-written.

Harry doesn't agree.

"I thought Mark did a good job with what he had to work with," he says.

"For the most part, he did interviews with lower-ranking Rangers, specialists and buck sergeants, and one disaffected Delta guy who was pissed because he didn't get the appropriate combat recognition. You gotta think something is wrong with an SF guy who'll violate OpSec over something like that.

"So there was a lot that was significant about the operation that didn't make it into the book. I wanted to give a fuller picture in the movie."

"How did you get your information?"

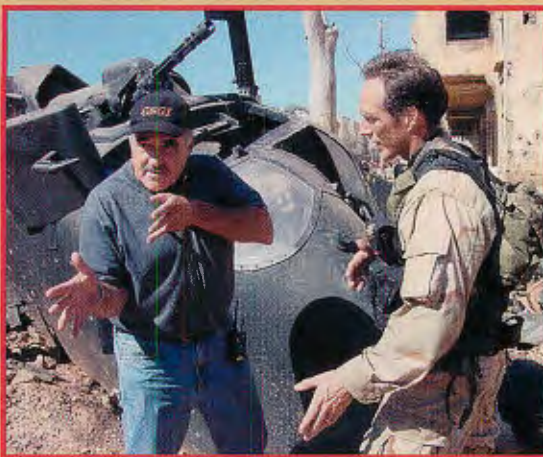
"Contacts within the SpecOps community," he said. "That vague enough for you?"

I smiled. "Yeah."

"This was not just a Ranger deal, or an army deal," he went on. "I wanted each aspect of it covered by a representative from that service. And we got it. We had people who were on the ground from the Rangers, from Delta, 160th SOAR and Air Force CSAR. The likes of Colonel Tom Mathews, who was OIC of the 160th, Colonel Lee VanArsdale, a senior *Deltoid*-type on Gen. Garrison's staff and a bunch of Ranger-types, including Sgt. 1st Class Matt Eversmann and others we shouldn't ID. They're working these days."

"How about the actors? I caught the trailer on Access Hollywood the other night. It looked terrific. First war movie I've seen where the Rangers wore Ranger haircuts."

"Yeah, we had real Rangers on the set. If the crew hair stylist hadn't given them Ranger haircuts the Rangers would have.



Associate Producer and Military Technical Advisor Harry Humphries offers actor Bill Fichtner (Sergeant Howe) professional advice. Humphries and others wanted BHD to be authentic and made realism their mission.

"The DoD was exceptionally supportive once we had script agreement in place. USASOC appointed a project officer to us, Major Tom McCullom, SF-type, who worked with us to set up training at the three commands represented in the movie.

"Normally I would do all training in-house with my people, but I saw a need to have each command participate in shaping the actors representing them. Each community is different, no other command smells or looks like a Ranger command. Same can be said about the boys behind the fence and the Night Stalkers ... all provided training.

"I worked very closely with the RHQ Public Affairs Officer, Captain Todd Bearden, mustang-type, who was a Ranger's Ranger. His love of the regiment and sense of duty struck me. I was determined to do these troops right. The Regiment provided a gentlemen's RIP course at Ft. Benning, GA, for six hard days. The troops, actors, fell out for reveille and did PT with the Rangers. They did every aspect of Ranger training that you see on the screen.

"For time efficiency, I elected not to teach patrolling, which, as you know, is most of what being a Ranger is about. But everything they did on the screen they trained for with the Rangers. They lived in the barracks formerly occupied by 3rd Batt., Bravo Company, the company they portrayed. Their first sergeant, now schooling at the Sergeant Major's Academy, had been a staff sergeant on the ground during the operation. He was really something."

"So how did the actors take to the training?"

Josh Hartnett (Staff Sergeant Matt Eversmann) on the horn for backup. With him is Gregory Sporleder.



"Some of 'em loved it; some were resistant."

"Did any of those people catch fire?"

"Let's just say that their performance in the training phase reflected on screen."

"So give me a little background. How did we get into this worst-case scenario?"

"Somalia went to shit during UNISOM I when Bush senior, Cheney, and Powell were running the National Command authority. Twenty-some thousand troops, mostly Marines, were landed to support the UN humanitarian action. Not only did the Marines stop the genocide allowing food to reach the starving civilians, they disarmed the fighting clans, cut the nuts off warlords, turned the operation back over to the UN and left country.

"Then came the UN-loving Clinton Administration. The warlords claimed they were helpless in the midst of anarchy, and the Clintons, UN, actually re-armed them. Next thing you know it's Dodge City all over again, with automatic weapons. After losing a large contingent of Pakistani UN troops to an Aidid ambush, the UN cried for help. "The classified operation, Task Force Ranger, was sent in to capture or kill the perps. And, you know what? The Clintons didn't want to play the full game.

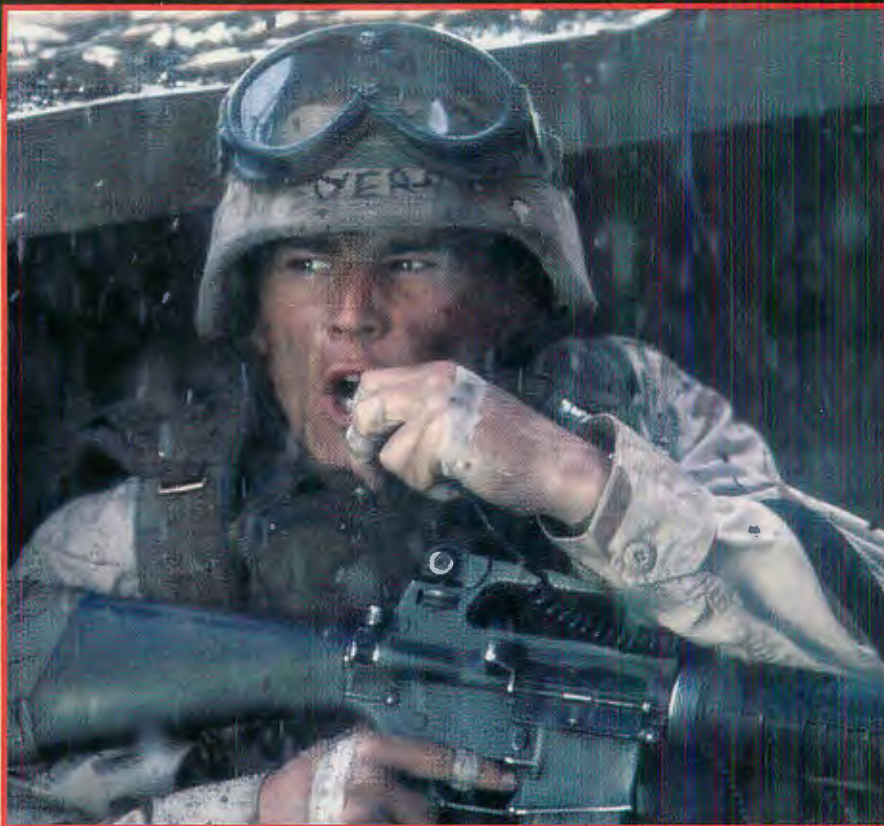
"Originally Task Force Ranger was supposed to have Specter gunship support, and American armor for backup, they trained and rehearsed that way. If we'd had that we wouldn't have lost more than a couple of people. But that was deemed too militaristic by the administration. "The genius in charge of the DoD took the dive and was fired shortly after that firefight. After all there was a UN Quick Reaction Force already on the ground, including the U.S. 10th Mountain, right? The UN had Pakistani armor. Armor's armor, right? What could go wrong?"

Lovely. I wondered how many G.I.s had died in the past 40 years to make the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Anal Osculation look good for one news cycle.

"So Task Force Ranger was given the mission of snatching the warlords and their top lieutenants."

"How were they getting their intel?"

"Well, you know, not from the military. The Chief of Station, Garrett Jones, who was Chief spook on the ground dur-



Josh Hartnett (Staff Sergeant Matt Eversmann), this time hunkered down as he calls in support.

ing the Bush senior Administration, was sent back to re-establish an intel net in support of TFR, code name "Gothic Serpent." He brought with him a former handler, CONDOR code name, ethnically advantaged and very good. In fact, they had their own op planned but couldn't execute because of a screw-up with their key indig.

"His top informant was another warlord, Aidid's competition. He was smart and knew his stuff, but he was crazy. Just before this operation he got all drunk up in a whorehouse and lost a game of Russian Roulette. Just blew his brains all over the place.

"Then his handler was killed. The chief of station tried to keep it going but there was, you know, a disconnect. The intel quality was questionable.

"Then they got word that there was going to be a meeting of Aidid's tier one people during daylight. All of them together in one place at one time. Very tempting.

"The TFR operators always preferred to work at night. Because of our NODs we owned the night. But this was in the afternoon."

"You think it was a setup?"

"Very possibly. When they went in there were over a thousand guys with AKs waiting for them. And the longer it went on the more showed up. The good

news is most of them died.

"Right at the start the Rangers could have punched out. But they had wounded and KIA on the choppers. So they fell back to protect the wounded and every chopper was its own little Alamo. Meanwhile, the Paki armor was reluctant to move out — getting organized was not in their vocabulary. In fact two staff officers, one SEAL and One Deltoid, under the CG, Garrison, were dispatched to force the QRF to get moving."

"How did you get the equipment and DoD support to Morocco?"

"Once DOD gave approval from the PAO at the Pentagon, the operating commands took over. A whole different mentality here. We were setting a brand new precedent. SF commands, black operators, were tasked with supporting a Hollywood thing. One would think that the closest assets to Morocco would be utilized, say from EUCOM, or CENTCOM, but this was not the case.

"After all, this was about some very special folks, their gear, their people. We wanted the real deal, Rangers as background action-types, TF 160 equipment and aviators. Additionally, we were under the sphere of EUCOM, USASOC, SOCOM. Man, did the logistics get hairy.

Continued on page 80

Chemical Catastrophe

Continued from page 43

gear and other necessary items (everything from chemical lightsticks to MREs with heaters) and brought it all over to her place. Nothing else, no instruction required. After all, she is my daughter.

My wife and I had concurred that our upstairs bedroom, with attached bath and storage closet, would become our family's sealed room. All its walls are reinforced concrete, the exterior covered with 1.75-inch thick Jerusalem stone. The bedroom has a single large window located next to a glass door that opens onto a porch with a view all the way to Jordan (and five minutes' flight-time beyond Saddam's Scud launch vehicles). The window and glass door have a full-length plastic blind that rolls up into a wooden box mounted over each. All glass is double-insulated and of a special shatterproof type. There is also a single small window in the bathroom.

The blinds serve the purpose of shades. They would be lowered in an alert. Glass would be taped-up to minimize shattering and flying about in the

unlikely event of a Scud hitting our Jerusalem neighborhood. All areas around the overhead wooden box open to the outside would be filled with caulk. Windows, door and box would be entirely sealed using both Mil spec plastic and tape. Only the room's entry door would be left "open," but plastic would be secured on the wall above it, ready to be unrolled and taped in place in fewer than 15 seconds. When the air raid sirens sounded, the family would complete sealing it by wedging a bleach soaked rag in the opening under the door and then taping plastic over the door itself.

As I collected the supplies I wanted to give to my older daughter, I restocked and reorganized our upstairs closet. My wife called the home front command and verified all our gas mask kit contents were current. I filled two 5-gallon jerry cans with gas and the barbecue tank with propane. I emailed my preparedness lists to friends and family. We are back to the practice of never leaving the car's gas tank less than 80% filled.

When the home front command directs us to seal our room, we'll bring upstairs the rest of our gear and the every day things we use, from the dog's

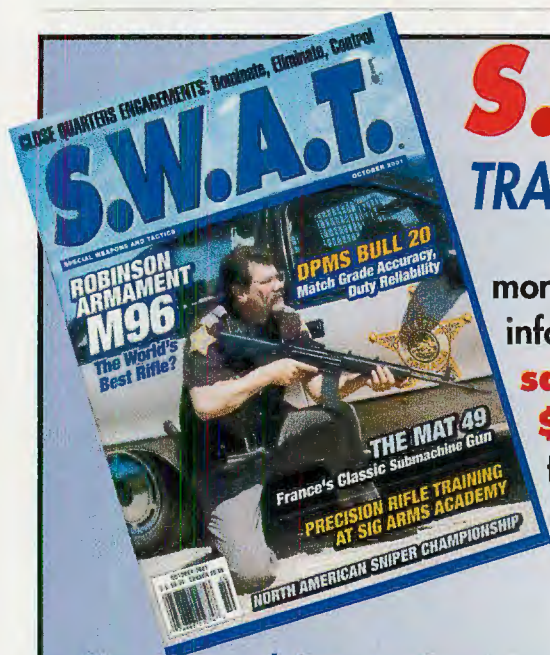
water bowl to my vitamins. It is also the time to bring inside the barbecue and our water storage tank, which we'll then fill. Parents will help their children cope with the potential of an attack by colorfully decorating the cardboard gas mask kit boxes that everyone will have hanging of their shoulder by its back plastic strap.

Epilogue

I do not worry much about Scuds hitting our area. Conventional wisdom is that no attacker would risk hitting Jerusalem's Muslim holy sights.

Nevertheless, in '91, two Scuds did land in the immediate Jerusalem vicinity, no doubt by error. I'm much more concerned about our Palestinian neighbors, the folks who had the huge block-party victory celebration in honor of the World Trade Center and Pentagon destruction. The same folks we watched on CNN, as they stood on their roofs and cheered as the Scuds flew overhead, egged on by their government's Chairman and still today the unchallenged leader of the Saddam Hussein Fan Club, Yassar Arafat.

David Stone is a frequent SOF contributor. ✕



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KAT1LE

The Sequential War

Continued from page 67

democratically free Constitutional Monarchy. A worldwide strategy for independence from Saudi oil would include: (1) A free Iran as an outlet for Caspian oil as per Stage Three; (2) The stabilization of Nigeria, with President Olesegun Obasanjo assisted in truly ending rapacious corruption, instituting the rule of law, providing regional autonomy, and shutting down anti-Christian Islamic fanaticism; (3) The termination of Castro-wannabe Hugo Chavez's rule in Venezuela (the U.S. imports more oil from Venezuela than from Saudi and Chavez is destroying both its economy and political institutions); (4) A joint military task force from the armies of Brazil, Argentina, Chile, and Peru formed with U.S. cooperation to militarily eradicate the FARC and other narco-marxist guerrillas from Colombia (this would secure 1 million barrels per day); (5) The drilling of ANWR in Alaska, and a crash program to develop methods to safely and efficiently extract the two trillion barrels of oil presently locked into tarsand deposits in the U.S. and Canada (my company, Energeia, Inc., is working on just such a process).

The ultimate goal of Osama bin Laden is to become the Ayatollah Khomeini of Saudi Arabia. Should he try to escape from Afghanistan ahead of his American pursuers, it would not be to Sudan or Somalia, but to Saudi Arabia where he expects to be welcomed as the next Mahdi by his myriad of followers and financial supporters. OBL hates America for supporting what he hates even more, the corrupt Saudi Royals polluting his sacred land — exactly as Khomeini hated America for supporting the Shah. He will, of course, be hunted down and shot well before he gets the chance to become the Saudi Ayatollah.

The Muslim world is nonetheless at a fork in the road determining its future. Down one way OBL is beckoning Islam to remain in its medieval Dark Ages, rejecting and fighting the civilized world. Down the other lies the promise of Democratic Islam with political freedom and women treated as human beings, with economic freedom allowing people to prosper instead of enviously desiring to destroy. Waging a Sequential War on Muslim Terrorism is the only way to ensure first path is a dead end, and that taking the second path is the Muslim world's solitary option.

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Torture: The Black Art

Continued from page 59

three children, and 100, both Muslims as well as Europeans. The following Sunday, the day of Pentecost, a bomb exploded under the platform of the orchestra of the Casino de la Corniche. Eighty-five were injured and the musicians were pulverized. The singer had both legs blown off.

Massu was furious. The funeral of the victims took place in a flame of violence without precedent. It became urgent to protect the Casbah to avoid a blood bath. The toll of that day was six dead and 50 wounded, mainly Muslims.

The Algerian Communist Party (PCA) was found to be responsible. Their clandestine journal *The Voice of the Soldier* continued to spread the "insidious propaganda." Aussaresses turned once more to Trinquier's censure of the population. A doctor George Hadjadj, a prominent PCA leader, was arrested. The doctor admitted that he was an important PCA member, but was not responsible for the attacks. He admitted that he was in charge of the distribution of the journal *La Voix du soldat*. He disclosed his role in the special forces and identified the chief as Andre Moine, but could give no information about him.

Aussaresses' tour of duty was over. The strike had been crushed, the *Voix du soldat* had been destroyed, Larbi Ben M'Hidi, Ali Boumendjel and Ben Bella had been liquidated. After Aussaresses found a replacement and turned over his dossier, he heard that the remaining chiefs of the FLN and the PCA fell one after the other. Andre Moine was captured in July of 1957. In October 1957, the bunker of Ali la Pointe was surrounded, then blown up.

His death marked the end of the battle of Algiers.

Dr. Martin Brass is a frequent contributor to SOF.

Next issue, we will explore the legality of torture, in the context of the ongoing trials of Aussaresses, in France and in Algeria. We will do this with an examination of existing French law at the time of these articles, and in the context of, international law — and how international law has transitioned and what the impact of that transition would be on any contemporary situation involving torture. ✕



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Black Hawk Down

Continued from page 77

"Force protection issues were prominent as the CINC, EUCOM did not want another DDG-67 (guided missile destroyer) Cole event in a friendly Muslim nation. Secondly, the local embassy was minus one ambassador due to normal rotation of administrations. There was great reluctance from the Chargé D'affaires who was holding the fort down, so to speak.

"Eventually, after some very high level influence, State gave us their chop, U.S. Air force TRANSCOM provided C-5 transport, and over came four MH-60 Black Hawk Helicopters, four AH/MH-6 convertible Little Birds complete with mini-gun weapons and Fast-Rope Capability. Supporting this was 140-some-odd soldiers, including one platoon of Rangers from Third Battalion, Bravo Company. A select group from the company provided fast-ropers and they were good. The Regimental Commander made sure the right company came over.

"DoD has an interest in supporting movies that promote recruiting. But they also have a "cost list", if you will. It cov-

ers the cost of per-diem for personnel, housing, meals, transport, etc. In addition, each aircraft type comes with a rotor-hour cost or flight-hour cost. "The production company works closely with the DoD office here in Los Angeles. Each service has a project officer assigned to the industry. For *Black Hawk Down* we worked closely with Major Andy Ortegon who did a first-rate job in pulling all assets together."

"Did you have anybody who was actually on the original operation?"

"Several former Ranger-types came over on their own nickel, just to be there, I suppose to get some sort of closure. We saw to it that they got in the movie as extras for as long as they cared. I also had John Collett helping me with Ranger dress. He was a young specialist, SAW operator in chalk one (Ranger unit) under Captain Steel. Also, several of the aviators, names purposely not included.

"What scenes were particularly important to you?"

"I wanted the MOH actions represented perfectly. Sergeant First Class Randy Shughart and Master Sgt. Gary Gordon knowingly insisted on being put into hell's mouth in order to protect a fellow soldier from a frenzied enemy crowd bent on dismembering anyone

American in their grasp.

"Death was certain, yet they went in. It was extremely important to me that the actors playing these guys were up to the task. The Director, Ridley Scott, was also very keen on portraying this scene with the respect it deserved."

"What is the essence of the screen play, are you faithful to the book?"

"The book is too complicated, too detailed to put all of it on screen. We only have two and one-half hours to tell the story. We combined some characters, or their deeds. But this film will give the audience a very accurate feel for the intensity of street combat, and the heroics of the American Soldier.

"It will definitely put the Mogadishu story in proper light."

"So how do you feel about the movie?" He grinned. "You're gonna love it. It'll be the first one you ever saw that looks like actual combat."

Jim Morris served three tours with Special Forces in Vietnam and covered eight wars for SOF. His Vietnam memoir, War Story, is available in hardcover from Paladin Press, and in paperback from St. Martin's. His story collection, Fighting Men, will be reissued by St. Martin's in 2002. ✕

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Blueprint For Terror

Continued from page 47

the period of preparation and the attack itself presumes a high degree of sophistication and attention to detail.

The manual teaches with great specificity how to secure, well in advance, such necessities as apartments and hiding places, communications, transportation and transport, forged documents, arms and ammunition. Operatives are taught in micro-managed detail how to shave their beards, use soap and aftershave, dress Western and blend in, and such practical matters as how to handle the military organization's finances. How and when to travel to avoid raising suspicion (at what times there will be less security apparatus to deal with, how to select boarding sites with less security, and in particular how to avoid drawing attention when traveling on a "special mission"). And techniques of using counterfeit ID and documents and how to live in an area for extended periods without raising suspicions.

The terrorists who would destroy the West have done their homework. They have spent years in study and preparation while we slept. After a number of thwarted missions and a few notable successes, they have delivered a resounding wakeup call. This call proved that if we give them the opportunity and unwitting assistance, they can be proficient at their evil works.

This is a war on the American homeland that transcends the token bombardments on the West Coast of World War Two. It is not a war we asked for, but it is a war we have no choice but to fight. It is a war we have no option but to win.

The attacks on New York and Washington were merely the first attacks. Al Qaida et al. fully intend they will not be the last. How effective subsequent attacks will or will not be depends in the greatest measure on how effective is our pro-active response at home. We can destroy the heart of the octopus in Afghanistan, but the tentacles are in place and can live and destroy independently.

They have painstakingly covered all the bases, but from here on they will be fighting an eagle in his own nest.

Let us hope that henceforth the eagle will be fully awake and totally prepared.

Frank Hopkins is a frequent contributor to SOF. ✕



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Living High In Afghanistan

Continued from page 51

pect that the Afghans, when dealing with each other, use their own monetary system, but I wasn't able to figure out what it was.

I learned that the Northern Afghan foreign ministry received a share of all U.S. currency paid to the local labor force. As an example, \$30 of the standard \$100 per day paid to an interpreter had to be turned over to the ministry as a sort of "concession fee." Vehicle drivers were similarly taxed. Charges for staying at one of the guesthouses, a fairly reasonable \$10 per day, were paid directly to the ministry. Since I never observed U.S. currency changing hands among Afghans, I suspected that the locals were not permitted to use foreign currency, and that all of the U.S. banknotes paid to Afghans wound up with the foreign ministry. I couldn't substantiate that, though.

Sleight Of Hand

One evening, I heard the purr of a small (probably 1-kw) portable Honda generator outside the guesthouse, with its cable snaking into a first-story window. Curious, I stepped into the hallway and watched from the half-open door as one of the European film crews compiled their day's footage using a 14-inch flat-screen video display and several laptop computers. First, they brought up a shot of a B-52 strike apparently photographed from "TV Hill," a prepared friendly position 30 km west of Khoja Bahouddin on the Amu Darya which overlooked a ridge occupied by the Taliban from a distance of about 8,000 meters.

This ridgeline had been a target of daily U.S. carpet bombing for the past week or so. The quality of the crew's optics was incredible. Shot through at least a 20X lens, the 8-km distant 2,000-pound bombs appeared to be exploding right in front of the camera. Using successive digital video inputs and reframing the display, the crew systematically massaged the footage into a finished 20-second clip of the bomb runs.

Once the video was complete, the technician inserted a digital disc containing the day's audio tracks. He mixed these tracks, containing excited Afghan voices, automatic AK-74 fire, and periodic "TV Tank" fire, with the carpet bombing footage, so that I found myself watching an extremely plausible battle scene. In fact, though, the small arms

fire had taken place well away from the bombing, and was the result of friendly Afghans firing into the air and shouting their approval for the cameras' benefit.

I had to admire the clip as a work of art, and thought of a quote attributed to a newspaper journalist some years ago: "Is it true?" she was asked. "No," she replied, "but it's accurate."

Progress

One morning while sitting in the shade on the network compound "patio," I was offered a cup of coffee by the foreman of the site crew (in a rock group, these guys would be "roadies"). He turned out to be a well-worn and somewhat crusty, but thoroughly likable, character.

"How's business?" I asked.

"Slow," he replied. "It's not going anywhere. All the correspondents are filing, but no one's getting on the air. The public's tired of getting the same stuff over and over. Americans have to see things moving, or they lose interest."

"The Afghans seem to be doing just fine," I said.

"Oh, yes," he agreed.

Neither one of us expected the situation in Northern Afghanistan to change anytime soon. Khoja Bahouddin was supposed to be the Northern Afghan headquarters, and we hadn't seen military movement or activity beyond a few occasional trucks carrying troops westward. Even considering the fact that our window to this part of the world was pretty small, there seemed to be just too much profit in the economics of stalemate to expect a change. We were wrong.

On 11 November, *The Washington Post* reported that Northern Afghan Commander Abdur-rashid Dostum had phoned from his recaptured headquarters in Mazar-e-Sharif, claiming complete control of Northern Afghanistan. The *Post* was careful to state that the information could not be verified, since foreign journalists still had no access to Northern Afghan military units, or to areas recently occupied by them.

This is notable because the announcement did not come from Northern Afghanistan's president Burhanuddin Rabbani's diplomatic staff, or from his most senior military officer. Dostum, a supposedly subordinate field commander, made a direct communication with the foreign press. No mention was made on this or on succeeding days of Dostum's connection with Rabbani's government, or with recognized superior military

authority. This would indicate that the Northern Alliance is, at the moment, not quite the "alliance" that most Americans picture it to be.

Need To Know

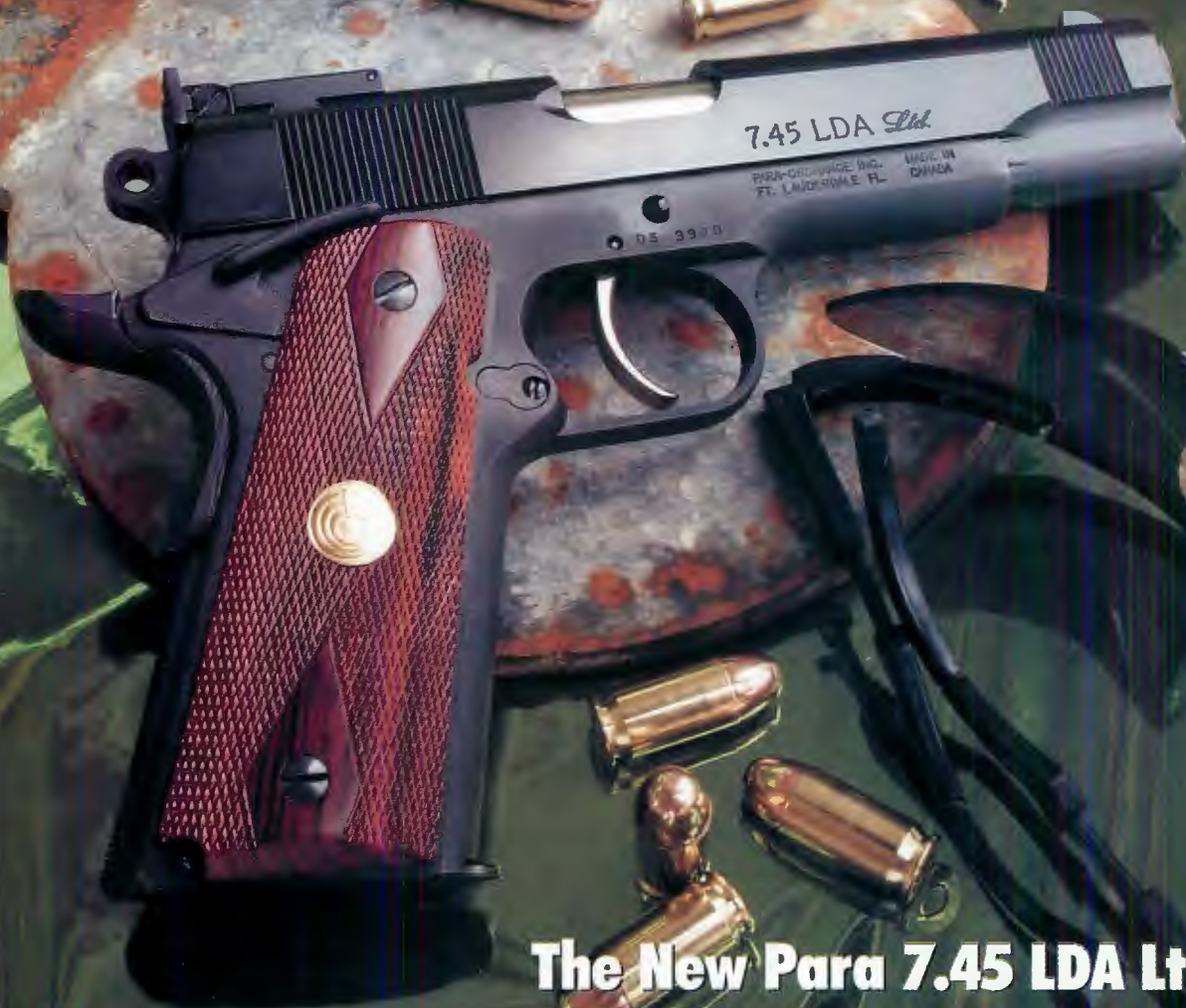
Why, does one suppose, would a correspondent for *Soldier Of Fortune* magazine, with years of experience doing such things, utterly fail to gain contact with friendly military folks in a country that's about to boil over? A veil of secrecy was drawn around the November 11th Northern Afghan offensive more artfully even than during Desert Storm. It certainly makes sense that U.S. Special Forces didn't need the press advertising their presence to the bad guys and putting a spotlight on whatever it was that they were up to.

There may be a bit more to it, though, a glimpse of which I think I caught from a CNN feature done earlier this year by a lady named Saira Shah. In her piece, she included a rare interview with a Taliban official who was discussing the regime's public executions of civilians in the Kabul soccer stadium. The official was smiling as he said, "When a person is executed for violating the laws of Islam, it is a joyous event, because the offender is cleansed of sin, and the community is cleansed of the offender." He was referring to Afghan women, forced to kneel and shot through the back of the head with Kalashnikovs. It occurs to me that, when one sets out to deal appropriately with such people, one doesn't particularly want a judgmental press corps looking over his shoulder. I can only hope that the official who uttered this phrase, obscene by any civilized standard, is presently no longer able to utter anything. If the United States Department of Defense finds it necessary to exclude our current crop of oh-so-sensitive reporters from time to time, maybe that's the way it needs to be. And, by the way, as I continue to relive the footage of collapsing skyscrapers and dying Americans, the image of Osama bin Laden's head on a pole starts to look pretty good to me. Vengeance isn't right. But justice is.

Karl Kirov is a United States citizen and former U.S. Army officer. He has traveled and worked in Central America, Western Europe, and Southeast Asia. This article is his first incursion into Central Asia. The views and conclusions expressed by him in this article do not necessarily reflect those of SOF. Kirov currently resides in Wyoming. ✕

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